

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**S. C. R. No. 1**

**Senators Oelslager, Huffman**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To adopt the Legislative Code of Ethics for the members 1  
and employees of both chambers of the 132nd General 2  
Assembly, employees of any legislative agency, and 3  
candidates for the 133rd 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, including the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, 15  
Correctional Institution Inspection Committee, Joint Committee 16  
on Agency Rule Review, Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee, Joint 17  
Education Oversight Committee, Legislative Information Systems, 18  
Legislative Inspector General, Legislative Service Commission, 19  
and Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission, and candidates 20

for the office of member of the General Assembly; now therefore 21  
be it 22

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and the Senate 23  
of the ~~131st~~132nd General Assembly adopt the following 24  
Legislative Code of Ethics: 25

LEGISLATIVE CODE OF ETHICS 26

FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE 27

~~131st~~132nd OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 28

EMPLOYEES OF ANY LEGISLATIVE AGENCY, 29

AND CANDIDATES FOR THE ~~132nd~~133rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY 30

SECTION 1. CONDUCT 31

All members of the Senate or the House of Representatives 32  
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit 33  
upon the member's respective chamber of the General Assembly, 34  
shall obey all rules of the member's respective chamber of the 35  
General Assembly, and shall conform the member's conduct to this 36  
Code of Ethics. All employees of the Senate or House of 37  
Representatives and all employees of any legislative agency 38  
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 137  
statement required by section 102.02 of the Revised Code. 138

SECTION 4. VOTING ABSTENTION 139

(A) A member who has reason to believe that the member has 140  
a substantial personal interest in legislation may request 141  
permission of the chair to abstain from voting on the 142  
legislation and may state the member's reason for the request. 143  
The request shall be granted by the chair or the member's 144  
respective chamber of the General Assembly pursuant to the rules 145  
of that chamber. The request and permission to abstain shall be 146  
entered in the House or Senate Journal, as is appropriate. 147

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall vote on any 148  
legislation that the member knows is then being actively 149  
advocated if the member is one of the following with respect to 150  
a legislative agent or employer that is then actively advocating 151  
on that legislation: 152

(1) An employee, as defined in section 102.031 of the 153  
Revised Code; 154

(2) A business associate, as defined in section 102.031 of 155  
the Revised Code; 156

(3) A person, other than an employee, who is hired under 157  
contract to perform certain services, and such position involves 158  
a substantial and material exercise of administrative discretion 159  
in the formulation of public policy. 160

(C) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may impose a 161  
fine of not more than one thousand dollars upon a member of the 162  
General Assembly who violates division (B) of this section. 163

**SECTION 5. COMPENSATION** 164

(A) Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 165  
of the Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the 166  
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 181  
the Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the 182  
General Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall 183  
sell or agree to sell, except through competitive bidding, any 184  
goods or services to the General Assembly or any department, 185  
division, institution, instrumentality, board, commission, or 186  
bureau of 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 232  
Assembly or present or former employee of any legislative agency 233  
shall disclose or use for the member's or employee's personal 234  
profit, without appropriate authorization, any information 235  
acquired by the member or employee in the course of the member's 236  
or employee's official duties that has been clearly designated 237  
to the member or employee as confidential when such confidential 238  
designation is warranted because of the status of the 239  
proceedings or the circumstances under which the information was 240  
received and preserving its confidentiality is necessary to the 241  
proper conduct of government business. No present or former 242  
member or employee of the General Assembly or present or former 243  
employee of any legislative agency shall disclose or use, 244  
without appropriate authorization, any information acquired by 245  
the member or employee in the course of the member's or 246  
employee's official duties that is confidential because of 247  
statutory provisions, except as provided in section 101.30 of 248  
the Revised Code or Section 12 or 13 of Article II, Ohio 249  
Constitution. 250

SECTION 7. IMPROPER INFLUENCE 251

(A) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 252  
employee of any legislative agency shall use or attempt to use 253  
or authorize the use of the authority or influence of the 254  
member's or employee's office or employment to secure anything 255  
of value or the promise or offer of anything of value that is of 256  
such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper 257  
influence upon the member or employee with respect to the 258

member's or employee's duties. 259

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 260  
employee of any legislative agency shall solicit or accept 261  
anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a 262  
substantial and improper influence upon the member or employee 263  
with respect to the member's or employee's duties. 264

(C) No member of the General Assembly shall solicit or 265  
receive funds from any legislative agent who is registered 266  
pursuant to section 101.72 of the Revised Code, for use other 267  
than by a political party, campaign committee, legislative 268  
campaign fund, political action committee, or political 269  
contributing entity, as defined in section 3517.01 of the 270  
Revised Code, except that a member may solicit or receive funds 271  
from any legislative agent on behalf of religious and benevolent 272  
organizations regulated by Chapter 1716. of the Revised Code or 273  
charitable organizations that have registered with the Attorney 274  
General pursuant to section 109.26 or 1716.02 of the Revised 275  
Code. 276

(D) In the absence of bribery or another offense under the 277  
Revised Code or a purpose to defraud, the receipt of 278  
contributions, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised 279  
Code, made to a campaign committee, political party, legislative 280  
campaign fund, political action committee, or political 281  
contributing entity on behalf of a member of or candidate for 282  
the General Assembly does not violate divisions (A) and (B) of 283  
this section. 284

(E) A member or employee of the General Assembly and an 285  
employee of any legislative agency may accept travel, meals, and 286  
lodging or expenses or reimbursement of expenses for travel, 287  
meals, and lodging in connection with conferences, seminars, and 288

similar events related to the member's or employee's official 289  
duties if the travel, meals, lodging, expenses, or reimbursement 290  
is not of such a character as to manifest a substantial and 291  
improper influence upon the member or employee with respect to 292  
those duties and if, in relation to expenses or reimbursement 293  
for travel or lodging provided to a member by a legislative 294  
agent, the expenses or reimbursement are not made in violation 295  
of division (C)(1) of section 102.031 of the Revised Code. A 296  
member or employee who acts in compliance with this division 297  
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 316  
the Ohio Senate, the Ohio House of Representatives, or any 317

legislative agency; 318

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

(e) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, 322  
whose appointing authority will be appointed by the candidate 323  
for the General Assembly, if elected, as authorized or required 324  
by law; 325

(f) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, who 326  
will function in or be employed in or by the same public agency, 327  
department, division, or office as the candidate for the General 328  
Assembly, if elected. 329

(2) As used in this section, "contribution" does not 330  
include services provided by individuals volunteering a portion 331  
of their time on behalf of a campaign. 332

(C) In addition to any complaint brought or penalty that 333  
may be imposed under sections 3517.152 to 3517.157 of the 334  
Revised Code, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may receive 335  
and initiate complaints against members and employees of, and 336  
candidates for, the General Assembly and employees of any 337  
legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be in violation 338  
of this section. Upon a finding of a violation of this section, 339  
the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend whatever 340  
sanction is appropriate with respect to a particular member, 341  
employee, or candidate as will best maintain in the minds of the 342  
public a good opinion of the conduct and character of members 343  
and employees of the General Assembly. 344

SECTION 9. SEPARATION OF FUNDS 345

(A) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly 346

shall convert, receive, or accept for personal or business use 347  
anything of value from the member's or candidate's campaign 348  
fund, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code, 349  
including, without limitation, payments to the member or 350  
candidate for services personally performed by the member or 351  
candidate, except as reimbursement for any of the following: 352

(1) Legitimate and verifiable prior campaign expenses 353  
incurred by the member or candidate; 354

(2) Legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, and necessary 355  
prior expenses incurred by the member or candidate in connection 356  
with duties as the holder of a public office, including, without 357  
limitation, expenses incurred through participation in 358  
nonpartisan or bipartisan events where the participation of the 359  
holder of a public office would normally be expected; 360

(3) Legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, and necessary 361  
prior expenses incurred by a member or candidate while doing any 362  
of the following: 363

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 364  
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue; 365

(b) Raising funds for a political party, political action 366  
committee, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, 367  
political contributing entity, or other candidate; 368

(c) Participating in the activities of a political party, 369  
political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 370  
contributing entity, or campaign committee; 371

(d) Attending a political party convention or other 372  
political meeting. 373

(B) For purposes of division (A) of this section, an 374

expense is incurred whenever a member or candidate has either 375  
made payment or is obligated to make payment, as by the use of a 376  
credit card or other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or 377  
services received on account. 378

(C) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly 379  
shall knowingly receive or accept reimbursement for an expense 380  
under division (A) of this section to the extent that the 381  
expense previously was reimbursed or paid from another source of 382  
funds. If an expense is reimbursed under division (A) of this 383  
section and is later paid or reimbursed, wholly or in part, from 384  
another source of funds, a member or candidate shall immediately 385  
repay the reimbursement received under division (A) of this 386  
section to the extent of the payment made or reimbursement 387  
received from the other source. 388

(D) A member of the General Assembly may be reimbursed 389  
under division (A) (1) or (3) of this section for expenses 390  
incurred for the member's meals and lodging in Franklin County 391  
if the expenses otherwise meet the requirements for 392  
reimbursement under division (A) (1) or (3) of this section and 393  
were not incurred while the member was in Franklin County to 394  
attend floor sessions of the General Assembly or meetings of its 395  
committees, except that a member may be reimbursed under 396  
division (A) (1), (2), or (3) of this section for expenses 397  
incurred for the member's meals in Franklin County at any time 398  
if the expenses otherwise meet the requirements for 399  
reimbursement under division (A) (1), (2), or (3) of this section 400  
and were incurred for meals at which the member hosted other 401  
persons. 402

(E) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly 403  
shall accept for personal or business use anything of value from 404

a political party, political action committee, legislative 405  
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or campaign 406  
committee other than the member's or candidate's own campaign 407  
committee, except for the following: 408

(1) Reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, 409  
and necessary prior expenses not otherwise prohibited by law 410  
incurred by the member or candidate while engaged in any 411  
legitimate activity of the political party, political action 412  
committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing 413  
entity, or such campaign committee. Without limitation, 414  
reimbursable expenses under this division include those incurred 415  
while doing any of the following: 416

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 417  
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue; 418

(b) Raising funds for a political party, campaign 419  
committee, legislative campaign fund, or another candidate; 420

(c) Attending a political party convention or other 421  
political meeting. 422

(2) Compensation not otherwise prohibited by law for 423  
actual and valuable personal services rendered under a written 424  
contract to the political party, political action committee, 425  
legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or the 426  
member's or candidate's own campaign committee for any 427  
legitimate activity of the political party, political action 428  
committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing 429  
entity, or such campaign committee. 430

Reimbursable expenses under this division do not include, 431  
and it is a violation of this division for a member or candidate 432  
to accept from a political party, political action committee, 433

legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or 434  
campaign committee other than the member's or candidate's own 435  
campaign committee, anything of value for activities primarily 436  
related to the member's or candidate's own campaign for 437  
election, except for contributions to the member's or 438  
candidate's campaign committee. 439

For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred 440  
whenever a member or candidate has either made payment or is 441  
obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or 442  
other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or services 443  
received on account. 444

(F) (1) Divisions (A) and (C) of this section do not 445  
prohibit a member's or candidate's campaign committee from 446  
making a direct advance or post payment from the member's or 447  
candidate's campaign fund to vendors for goods and services for 448  
which reimbursement is permitted under division (A) of this 449  
section, except that no campaign committee shall pay a member or 450  
candidate for services personally performed by the member or the 451  
candidate. 452

(2) When any expense that may be reimbursed under division 453  
(A), (C), or (E) of this section is part of other expenses that 454  
may not be paid or reimbursed, the separation of the two types 455  
of expenses for the purpose of allocating for payment or 456  
reimbursement those expenses that may be paid or reimbursed may 457  
be by any reasonable accounting method, considering all of the 458  
surrounding circumstances. 459

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

expenses allowable. 464

(G) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall report 465  
violations of this section to the Elections Commission pursuant 466  
to division (E) (1) of Section 13 of this Code of Ethics. 467

SECTION 10. HONORARIA AND TESTIMONIALS 468

(A) No member of the General Assembly, employee of the 469  
General Assembly who is required to file a financial disclosure 470  
statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code, or employee 471  
of any legislative agency who is required to file a financial 472  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 473  
shall solicit or accept an honorarium. This division and 474  
divisions (A), (B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics 475  
do not prohibit a member or employee who is required to file a 476  
financial disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the 477  
Revised Code from accepting the payment of actual travel 478  
expenses, including any expenses incurred in connection with the 479  
travel for lodging, and meals, food, and beverages provided to 480  
the member or employee at a meeting at which the member or 481  
employee participates in a panel, seminar, or speaking 482  
engagement or provided to the member or employee at a meeting or 483  
convention of a national organization to which either house of 484  
the General Assembly, or any state agency, including, but not 485  
limited to, any legislative agency or state institution of 486  
higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised 487  
Code, pays membership dues. This division and divisions (A), 488  
(B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics do not prohibit 489  
an employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 490  
legislative agency who is not required to file a financial 491  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 492  
from accepting an honorarium or the payment of travel, meal, and 493

lodging expenses if the honorarium, expenses, or both were paid 494  
in recognition of demonstrable business, professional, or 495  
esthetic interests of the employee that exist apart from the 496  
employee's public employment, including, but not limited to, 497  
such a demonstrable interest in public speaking and were not 498  
paid by any person or other entity, or by any representative or 499  
association of such person or entities, that is regulated by, 500  
doing business with, or seeking to do business with the General 501  
Assembly or any legislative agency. 502

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall conduct a 503  
public or private fund raising event that seeks to provide money 504  
for the member's personal use. 505

(C) As used in this section, "honorarium" means any 506  
payment made in consideration for any speech given, article 507  
published, or attendance at any public or private conference, 508  
convention, meeting, social event, meal, or similar gathering. 509  
"Honorarium" does not include ceremonial gifts or awards that 510  
have insignificant monetary value; unsolicited gifts of nominal 511  
value or trivial items of informational value; or earned income 512  
from any person, other than a legislative agent, for personal 513  
services that are customarily provided in connection with the 514  
practice of a bona fide business, if that business initially 515  
began before the member or employee conducting that business was 516  
elected or appointed to the member's or employee's office or 517  
position of employment. 518

SECTION 11. IMPROPER INDUCEMENT 519

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

matter to the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. 524

SECTION 12. ADVISORY BODY 525

(A) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend 526  
legislation relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and 527  
financial disclosure and, upon a vote of a majority of its 528  
members, may render advisory opinions with regard to questions 529  
concerning these matters for members and employees of and 530  
candidates for the General Assembly and for employees of any 531  
legislative agency. 532

(B) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders an 533  
advisory opinion that has been publicly sought and that relates 534  
to a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of 535  
interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 536  
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the person to whom the 537  
opinion was directed or who was similarly situated may 538  
reasonably rely upon such opinion and shall be immune from 539  
criminal prosecutions, civil suits, or actions for removal from 540  
the person's office or position of employment for a violation of 541  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code 542  
based on facts and circumstances covered by the opinion, if the 543  
opinion states that there is no violation of Chapter 102. or 544  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code. The committee 545  
shall include in every advisory opinion it renders a statement 546  
as to whether the set of circumstances described in the advisory 547  
opinion constitutes a violation of section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of 548  
the Revised Code. When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee 549  
renders an opinion that has been publicly sought, the advisory 550  
opinion is a public record available under section 149.43 of the 551  
Revised Code. 552

(C) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders a 553

written opinion that has been privately sought and that relates 554  
to a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of 555  
interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 556  
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the written opinion does 557  
not have the legal effect of an advisory opinion issued under 558  
division (B) of this section. When the Joint Legislative Ethics 559  
Committee renders a written opinion that has been privately 560  
sought, the written opinion is not a public record available 561  
under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 562

The person to whom a written opinion is issued under this 563  
division may request the committee to issue the written opinion 564  
as an advisory opinion. The person may make the request at any 565  
time within thirty days after the written opinion is issued and 566  
prior to committing any proposed action discussed in the written 567  
opinion. Upon receiving a timely request and with the approval 568  
of a majority of the members of the committee, the committee may 569  
issue the written opinion as an advisory opinion. If the 570  
committee issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion, the 571  
advisory opinion has the same legal effect as an advisory 572  
opinion issued under division (B) of this section and is a 573  
public record available under section 149.43 of the Revised 574  
Code. If the person commits any proposed action discussed in the 575  
written opinion before the committee issues the written opinion 576  
as an advisory opinion, the advisory opinion grants no immunity 577  
to the person regarding any action that is discussed in the 578  
written opinion and that the person commits before the committee 579  
issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion. 580

(D) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall issue an 581  
advisory opinion under division (B) of this section or a written 582  
opinion under division (C) of this section, whether it is 583  
publicly or privately sought, only at a meeting of the committee 584

and only with the approval of a majority of the members of the 585  
committee. 586

(E) All requests for an opinion shall be submitted in 587  
writing by the member or employee of or candidate for the 588  
General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency who 589  
desires the opinion and shall state in the request whether the 590  
opinion is being publicly or privately sought. If the request 591  
fails to state whether the opinion is being publicly or 592  
privately sought, the committee shall consider the opinion to be 593  
privately sought. The committee shall issue in writing all 594  
advisory opinions that have been publicly sought, appropriately 595  
number them, and make them available for public inspection. The 596  
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall conduct all of its 597  
proceedings surrounding the rendering of an opinion so as to 598  
protect the confidentiality of those named in the request for 599  
the opinion. 600

SECTION 13. CONSIDERATION AND HEARING OF COMPLAINTS 601

(A) (1) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall 602  
receive, and may initiate, complaints concerning breach of 603  
privilege and complaints against members and employees of and 604  
candidates for the General Assembly and employees of any 605  
legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be misconduct, 606  
a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the 607  
Revised Code, or this Code of Ethics. All complaints except 608  
those by the committee shall be by affidavit made on personal 609  
knowledge, subject to the penalties of perjury. A complaint by 610  
the committee shall be by affidavit, based upon facts that 611  
constitute reasonable cause to believe that a breach of 612  
privilege, misconduct, or a violation of this Code of Ethics or 613  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code 614

has occurred. The complaint shall not contain innuendo, 615  
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 (D) and (G) of this section, order remedial action 723  
pursuant to division (D) of this section, or dismiss the 724  
complaint. 725

Upon the completion of an investigation of any other 726  
matter referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector 727  
General, the executive director or the executive director's 728  
designee shall present to the committee the executive director's 729  
or designee's preliminary findings with respect to the facts and 730  
evidence gathered regarding the matter referred. Upon receiving 731  
the 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 confidential by this section.	984 985
(2) The requirement of confidentiality set forth in division (I)(1) of this section includes without limitation divulging any matter to members or employees of the House or Senate or employees of any legislative agency who are not members of or assigned to the committee or to any employees of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General who are not assigned to staff the committee or do not assist any Office of the Legislative Inspector General employee assigned to staff the committee, but does not prevent any of the following:	986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994
(a) The issuance of a final report by the committee or any commentary upon the contents of the final report;	995 996
(b) Discussion of any complaint, request for an advisory opinion, charges presented to the committee, information related to a complaint, to an advisory opinion request, or to charges presented to the committee, proceedings of the committee, or other papers, records, affidavits, documents, or proceedings that are made private and confidential by this section between the members of the committee and any of the following:	997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003
(i) Any employees or staff of the committee;	1004
(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;	1005 1006 1007
(iii) Any employees of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General assigned to staff the committee;	1008 1009
(iv) Any other persons employed by or assigned to serve the committee.	1010 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 <del>132nd</del> <u>133rd</u> GENERAL ASSEMBLY	1045
The Code of Ethics for the <del>131st</del> <u>132nd</u> General Assembly	1046
shall be effective until the <del>132nd</del> <u>133rd</u> General Assembly adopts	1047
the Code of Ethics for the <del>132nd</del> <u>133rd</u> General Assembly.	1048