

As Adopted by the Senate

**128th General Assembly
Regular Session
2009-2010**

H. C. R. No. 5

Representative Szollosi

Cosponsors: Representatives Adams, J., Adams, R., Bacon, Balderson, Bolon, Book, Boyd, Brown, Bupp, Celeste, Chandler, Coley, Combs, Daniels, DeBose, DeGeeter, Derickson, Domenick, Driehaus, Dyer, Evans, Fende, Foley, Gardner, Garland, Garrison, Gerberry, Goodwin, Goyal, Grossman, Hackett, Hagan, Harris, Heard, Hite, Huffman, Koziura, Letson, Luckie, Mallory, Mandel, McClain, Miller, Moran, Morgan, Murray, Patten, Phillips, Pillich, Pryor, Ruhl, Sayre, Sears, Skindell, Slesnick, Snitchler, Stautberg, Stebelton, Stewart, Uecker, Weddington, Williams, B., Williams, S., Winburn, Yates, Yuko Senators Buehrer, Cafaro, Cates, Coughlin, Fedor, Gibbs, Goodman, Hughes, Kearney, Niehaus, Patton, Schaffer, Schiavoni, Turner, Wilson, Gillmor, Widener, Wagoner, Morano, Sawyer, Faber

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To adopt the Legislative Code of Ethics for the 1
members and employees of both chambers of the 2
128th General Assembly, employees of any 3
legislative agency, and candidates for the 129th 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, appointed by 6
the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of 7
the Senate pursuant to section 101.34 of the Revised Code, is 8
required to recommend a Code of Ethics that is consistent with the 9

law to govern all members and employees of each chamber of the 10
General Assembly and all candidates for the office of member of 11
each chamber; and 12

WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee is the 13
appropriate ethics committee for matters relating to members and 14
employees of the General Assembly, employees of any legislative 15
agency, including the Correctional Institution Inspection 16
Committee, Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, Legislative 17
Information Systems, Legislative Inspector General, and 18
Legislative Service Commission, and candidates for the office of 19
member of the General Assembly; now therefore be it 20

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and the Senate of 21
the 128th General Assembly adopt the following Legislative Code of 22
Ethics: 23

LEGISLATIVE CODE OF ETHICS 24

FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE 25

~~127th~~ 128th OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 26

EMPLOYEES OF ANY LEGISLATIVE AGENCY, 27

AND CANDIDATES FOR THE ~~128th~~ 129th GENERAL ASSEMBLY 28

SECTION 1. CONDUCT 29

All members of the Senate or the House of Representatives 30
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit upon 31
the member's respective chamber of the General Assembly, shall 32
obey all rules of the member's respective chamber of the General 33
Assembly, and shall conform the member's conduct to this Code of 34
Ethics. All employees of the Senate or House of Representatives 35
and all employees of any legislative agency shall conduct 36
themselves at all times so as to reflect credit upon the 37
employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly or 38
institution of employment, shall obey all rules of the employee's 39
respective chamber of the General Assembly or institution of 40
employment, and shall conform the employee's conduct to this Code 41

of Ethics. 42

SECTION 2. DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 43

(A) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 44
accept disclosure statements filed by members and employees of the 45
General Assembly and employees of any legislative agency pursuant 46
to section 102.02 of the Revised Code and shall maintain a file of 47
all disclosure statements that are filed pursuant to that section. 48
Every member of the General Assembly and every employee of the 49
General Assembly and any legislative agency who is required to 50
file a financial disclosure statement, within the period 51
prescribed by law, shall file with the Office of the Legislative 52
Inspector General, a disclosure statement as provided for by 53
section 102.02 of the Revised Code. Each member and each employee 54
of the General Assembly and employee of any legislative agency 55
required to file a financial disclosure statement, within the 56
period and in the manner prescribed by section 102.02 of the 57
Revised Code, shall receive from the Office of the Legislative 58
Inspector General the form on which the statement shall be 59
prepared. 60

(B) Division (A)(2)(c) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 61
applies to members of the General Assembly who are attorneys or 62
physicians or who otherwise engage in the practice of a profession 63
and to the clients, patients, and other recipients of professional 64
services of members of the General Assembly who are attorneys or 65
physicians or who otherwise engage in the practice of a 66
profession, even if those clients, patients, and other recipients 67
of professional services are legislative agents. 68

(C) Division (A)(8) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 69
requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee of the 70
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file a 71
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code to 72
identify on a disclosure statement the source and amount of any 73

payment of expenses incurred for travel to destinations inside or 74
outside this state that the member or employee receives in the 75
member's or employee's own name or that another person receives 76
for the member's or employee's use or benefit in connection with 77
the member's or employee's official duties, except for expenses 78
for travel to meetings or conventions of a national or state 79
organization to which any state agency, including, but not limited 80
to, any legislative agency or state institution of higher 81
education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays 82
membership dues, or any political subdivision or any office or 83
agency of a political subdivision pays membership dues. 84

(D) Division (A) (9) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 85
requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee of the 86
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file a 87
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code to 88
identify on a disclosure statement the source of payment of 89
expenses for meals and other food and beverages that are incurred 90
in connection with the person's official duties and that exceed 91
one hundred dollars aggregated per calendar year, except for 92
expenses for meals and other food and beverages provided at a 93
meeting at which the member or employee participated in a panel, 94
seminar, or speaking engagement or at a meeting or convention of a 95
national or state organization to which a state agency, including, 96
but not limited to, any legislative agency or state institution of 97
higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised 98
Code, pays membership dues, or any political subdivision or any 99
office or agency of a political subdivision pays membership dues. 100

(E) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) (2) of 101
this section, in accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised 102
Code, every member of the General Assembly and every employee of 103
the General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file an 104
annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code shall 105

disclose the source of a gift or gifts, where the value of the 106
gift or gifts aggregated per calendar year exceeds seventy-five 107
dollars, except gifts received by will or by virtue of section 108
2105.06 of the Revised Code, or received from spouses, parents, 109
grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, nephews, nieces, 110
uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, 111
sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, fathers-in-law, mothers-in-law, 112
step-relations, or any person to whom the member or employee of 113
the General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency stands 114
in loco parentis, or received by way of distribution from any 115
inter vivos or testamentary trust established by a spouse or by an 116
ancestor. 117

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

SECTION 3. LICENSE DISCLOSURE 125

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

SECTION 4. VOTING ABSTENTION 134

(A) A member who has reason to believe that the member has a 135
substantial personal interest in legislation may request 136

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

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall vote on any 143
legislation that the member knows is then being actively advocated 144
if the member is one of the following with respect to a 145
legislative agent or employer that is then actively advocating on 146
that legislation: 147

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

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

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

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

SECTION 5. COMPENSATION 159

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

that is before the General Assembly or any department, division, 168
institution, instrumentality, board, commission, or bureau of the 169
state, excluding the courts. 170

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

Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of the 176
Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the General 177
Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall sell or agree 178
to sell, except through competitive bidding, any goods or services 179
to the General Assembly or any department, division, institution, 180
instrumentality, board, commission, or bureau of the state, 181
excluding the courts. 182

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or employee 183
of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept any of the 184
following from a legislative agent: 185

(1) The payment of any expenses for travel or lodging except 186
as otherwise authorized by division (H) of section 102.03 of the 187
Revised Code; 188

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

which all members of the General Assembly or all members of either 199
house of the General Assembly are invited. 200

(C) No member or employee of the General Assembly or employee 201
of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept from a 202
legislative agent a gift of any amount in the form of cash or the 203
equivalent of cash, or a gift or gifts of any other thing of value 204
where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar year 205
exceeds seventy-five dollars. As used in this division, "gift" 206
does not include any contribution as defined in section 3517.01 of 207
the Revised Code or any gifts of meals and other food and 208
beverages or the payment of expenses incurred for travel to 209
destinations either inside or outside this state that is received 210
by a member of the General Assembly and that is incurred in 211
connection with the member's official duties. 212

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

SECTION 6. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 225

No present or former member or employee of the General 226
Assembly or present or former employee of any legislative agency 227
shall disclose or use for the member's or employee's personal 228
profit, without appropriate authorization, any information 229
acquired by the member or employee in the course of the member's 230

or employee's official duties that has been clearly designated to 231
the member or employee as confidential when such confidential 232
designation is warranted because of the status of the proceedings 233
or the circumstances under which the information was received and 234
preserving its confidentiality is necessary to the proper conduct 235
of government business. No present or former member or employee of 236
the General Assembly or present or former employee of any 237
legislative agency shall disclose or use, without appropriate 238
authorization, any information acquired by the member or employee 239
in the course of the member's or employee's official duties that 240
is confidential because of statutory provisions, except as 241
provided in section 101.30 of the Revised Code or Section 12 or 13 242
of Article II, Ohio Constitution. 243

SECTION 7. IMPROPER INFLUENCE 244

(A) No member or employee of the General Assembly or employee 245
of any legislative agency shall use or attempt to use or authorize 246
the use of the authority or influence of the member's or 247
employee's office or employment to secure anything of value or the 248
promise or offer of anything of value that is of such a character 249
as to manifest a substantial and improper influence upon the 250
member or employee with respect to the member's or employee's 251
duties. 252

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or employee 253
of any legislative agency shall solicit or accept anything of 254
value that is of such a character as to manifest a substantial and 255
improper influence upon the member or employee with respect to the 256
member's or employee's duties. 257

(C) No member of the General Assembly shall solicit or 258
receive funds from any legislative agent who is registered 259
pursuant to section 101.72 of the Revised Code, for use other than 260
by a political party, campaign committee, legislative campaign 261
fund, political action committee, or political contributing 262

entity, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code, except 263
that a member may solicit or receive funds from any legislative 264
agent on behalf of religious and benevolent organizations 265
regulated by Chapter 1716. of the Revised Code or charitable 266
organizations that have registered with the Attorney General 267
pursuant to section 109.26 or 1716.02 of the Revised Code. 268

(D) In the absence of bribery or another offense under the 269
Revised Code or a purpose to defraud, the receipt of 270
contributions, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code, 271
made to a campaign committee, political party, legislative 272
campaign fund, political action committee, or political 273
contributing entity on behalf of a member of or candidate for the 274
General Assembly does not violate divisions (A) and (B) of this 275
section. 276

(E) A member or employee of the General Assembly and an 277
employee of any legislative agency may accept travel, meals, and 278
lodging or expenses or reimbursement of expenses for travel, 279
meals, and lodging in connection with conferences, seminars, and 280
similar events related to the member's or employee's official 281
duties if the travel, meals, lodging, expenses, or reimbursement 282
is not of such a character as to manifest a substantial and 283
improper influence upon the member or employee with respect to 284
those duties and if, in relation to expenses or reimbursement for 285
travel or lodging provided to a member by a legislative agent, the 286
expenses or reimbursement are not made in violation of division 287
(C) (1) of section 102.031 of the Revised Code. A member or 288
employee who acts in compliance with this division does not 289
violate division (A), (B), or (C) of this section. 290

SECTION 8. STAFF USE 291

(A) A member of the General Assembly shall utilize General 292
Assembly employees only for the official purposes for which they 293
are employed. 294

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(C) In addition to any complaint brought or penalty that may

be imposed under sections 3517.152 to 3517.157 of the Revised Code, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may receive and initiate complaints against members and employees of, and candidates for, the General Assembly and employees of any legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be in violation of this section. Upon a finding of a violation of this section, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend whatever sanction is appropriate with respect to a particular member, employee, or candidate as will best maintain in the minds of the public a good opinion of the conduct and character of members and employees of the General Assembly.

SECTION 9. SEPARATION OF FUNDS

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

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

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

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

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to

another candidate, political party, or ballot issue;	356
(b) Raising funds for a political party, political action committee, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or other candidate;	357 358 359
(c) Participating in the activities of a political party, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or campaign committee;	360 361 362
(d) Attending a political party convention or other political meeting.	363 364
(B) For purposes of division (A) of this section, an expense is incurred whenever a member or candidate has either made payment or is obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or services received on account.	365 366 367 368 369
(C) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly shall knowingly receive or accept reimbursement for an expense under division (A) of this section to the extent that the expense previously was reimbursed or paid from another source of funds. If an expense is reimbursed under division (A) of this section and is later paid or reimbursed, wholly or in part, from another source of funds, a member or candidate shall immediately repay the reimbursement received under division (A) of this section to the extent of the payment made or reimbursement received from the other source.	370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379
(D) A member of the General Assembly may be reimbursed under division (A) (1) or (3) of this section for expenses incurred for the member's meals and lodging in Franklin County if the expenses otherwise meet the requirements for reimbursement under division (A) (1) or (3) of this section and were not incurred while the member was in Franklin County to attend floor sessions of the General Assembly or meetings of its committees, except that a	380 381 382 383 384 385 386

member may be reimbursed under division (A) (1), (2), or (3) of 387
this section for expenses incurred for the member's meals in 388
Franklin County at any time if the expenses otherwise meet the 389
requirements for reimbursement under division (A) (1), (2), or (3) 390
of this section and were incurred for meals at which the member 391
hosted other persons. 392

(E) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly shall 393
accept for personal or business use anything of value from a 394
political party, political action committee, legislative campaign 395
fund, political contributing entity, or campaign committee other 396
than the member's or candidate's own campaign committee, except 397
for the following: 398

(1) Reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, 399
and necessary prior expenses not otherwise prohibited by law 400
incurred by the member or candidate while engaged in any 401
legitimate activity of the political party, political action 402
committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing 403
entity, or such campaign committee. Without limitation, 404
reimbursable expenses under this division include those incurred 405
while doing any of the following: 406

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 407
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue; 408

(b) Raising funds for a political party, campaign committee, 409
legislative campaign fund, or another candidate; 410

(c) Attending a political party convention or other political 411
meeting. 412

(2) Compensation not otherwise prohibited by law for actual 413
and valuable personal services rendered under a written contract 414
to the political party, political action committee, legislative 415
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or the member's or 416
candidate's own campaign committee for any legitimate activity of 417

the political party, political action committee, legislative 418
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or such campaign 419
committee. 420

Reimbursable expenses under this division do not include, and 421
it is a violation of this division for a member or candidate to 422
accept from a political party, political action committee, 423
legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or 424
campaign committee other than the member's or candidate's own 425
campaign committee, anything of value for activities primarily 426
related to the member's or candidate's own campaign for election, 427
except for contributions to the member's or candidate's campaign 428
committee. 429

For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred 430
whenever a member or candidate has either made payment or is 431
obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or other 432
credit procedure, or by the use of goods or services received on 433
account. 434

(F) (1) Divisions (A) and (C) of this section do not prohibit 435
a member's or candidate's campaign committee from making a direct 436
advance or post payment from the member's or candidate's campaign 437
fund to vendors for goods and services for which reimbursement is 438
permitted under division (A) of this section, except that no 439
campaign committee shall pay a member or candidate for services 440
personally performed by the member or the candidate. 441

(2) When any expense that may be reimbursed under division 442
(A), (C), or (E) of this section is part of other expenses that 443
may not be paid or reimbursed, the separation of the two types of 444
expenses for the purpose of allocating for payment or 445
reimbursement those expenses that may be paid or reimbursed may be 446
by any reasonable accounting method, considering all of the 447
surrounding circumstances. 448

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

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

SECTION 10. HONORARIA AND TESTIMONIALS

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

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall conduct a public 491
or private fund raising event that seeks to provide money for the 492
member's personal use. 493

(C) As used in this section, "honorarium" means any payment 494
made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or 495
attendance at any public or private conference, convention, 496
meeting, social event, meal, or similar gathering. "Honorarium" 497
does not include ceremonial gifts or awards that have 498
insignificant monetary value; unsolicited gifts of nominal value 499
or trivial items of informational value; or earned income from any 500
person, other than a legislative agent, for personal services that 501
are customarily provided in connection with the practice of a bona 502
fide business, if that business initially began before the member 503
or employee conducting that business was elected or appointed to 504
the member's or employee's office or position of employment. 505

SECTION 11. IMPROPER INDUCEMENT 506

If any person attempts to induce a member or employee of or 507
candidate for the General Assembly or employee of any legislative 508
agency to violate any provision of this Code of Ethics, the 509
member, employee, or candidate shall report the matter to the 510
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. 511

SECTION 12. ADVISORY BODY 512

(A) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend 513
legislation relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and 514
financial disclosure and, upon a vote of a majority of its 515
members, may render advisory opinions with regard to questions 516
concerning these matters for members and employees of and 517
candidates for the General Assembly and for employees of any 518
legislative agency. 519

(B) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders an 520
advisory opinion that has been publicly sought and that relates to 521
a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of 522
interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 523
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the person to whom the 524
opinion was directed or who was similarly situated may reasonably 525
rely upon such opinion and shall be immune from criminal 526
prosecutions, civil suits, or actions for removal from the 527
person's office or position of employment for a violation of 528
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code 529
based on facts and circumstances covered by the opinion, if the 530
opinion states that there is no violation of Chapter 102. or 531
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code. The committee 532
shall include in every advisory opinion it renders a statement as 533
to whether the set of circumstances described in the advisory 534
opinion constitutes a violation of section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of 535
the Revised Code. When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee 536
renders an opinion that has been publicly sought, the advisory 537
opinion is a public record available under section 149.43 of the 538
Revised Code. 539

(C) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders a 540
written opinion that has been privately sought and that relates to 541
a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of 542
interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 543

2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the written opinion does 544
not have the legal effect of an advisory opinion issued under 545
division (B) of this section. When the Joint Legislative Ethics 546
Committee renders a written opinion that has been privately 547
sought, the written opinion is not a public record available under 548
section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 549

The person to whom a written opinion is issued under this 550
division may request the committee to issue the written opinion as 551
an advisory opinion. The person may make the request at any time 552
within thirty days after the written opinion is issued and prior 553
to committing any proposed action discussed in the written 554
opinion. Upon receiving a timely request and with the approval of 555
a majority of the members of the committee, the committee may 556
issue the written opinion as an advisory opinion. If the committee 557
issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion, the advisory 558
opinion has the same legal effect as an advisory opinion issued 559
under division (B) of this section and is a public record 560
available under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. If the person 561
commits any proposed action discussed in the written opinion 562
before the committee issues the written opinion as an advisory 563
opinion, the advisory opinion grants no immunity to the person 564
regarding any action that is discussed in the written opinion and 565
that the person commits before the committee issues the written 566
opinion as an advisory opinion. 567

(D) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall issue an 568
advisory opinion under division (B) of this section or a written 569
opinion under division (C) of this section, whether it is publicly 570
or privately sought, only at a meeting of the committee and only 571
with the approval of a majority of the members of the committee. 572

(E) All requests for an opinion shall be submitted in writing 573
by the member or employee of or candidate for the General Assembly 574
or employee of any legislative agency who desires the opinion and 575

shall state in the request whether the opinion is being publicly 576
or privately sought. If the request fails to state whether the 577
opinion is being publicly or privately sought, the committee shall 578
consider the opinion to be privately sought. The committee shall 579
issue in writing all advisory opinions that have been publicly 580
sought, appropriately number them, and make them available for 581
public inspection. The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall 582
conduct all of its proceedings surrounding the rendering of an 583
opinion so as to protect the confidentiality of those named in the 584
request for the opinion. 585

SECTION 13. CONSIDERATION AND HEARING OF COMPLAINTS 586

(A) (1) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall receive, 587
and may initiate, complaints concerning breach of privilege and 588
complaints against members and employees of and candidates for the 589
General Assembly and employees of any legislative agency 590
concerning conduct alleged to be misconduct, a violation of 591
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, 592
this Code of Ethics, or the House or Senate rules. All complaints 593
except those by the committee shall be by affidavit made on 594
personal knowledge, subject to the penalties of perjury. A 595
complaint by the committee shall be by affidavit, based upon facts 596
that constitute reasonable cause to believe that a breach of 597
privilege, misconduct, or a violation of the House or Senate 598
rules, this Code of Ethics, or Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 599
2921.43 of the Revised Code, has occurred. The complaint shall not 600
contain innuendo, speculative assertions, or conclusory 601
statements. 602

At the first meeting of the committee in each calendar year, 603
the chairperson of the committee for that year shall appoint an 604
investigation subcommittee. The subcommittee shall consist of the 605
chairperson of the committee for that year and a member of the 606
committee who is a member of the chamber and political party of 607

which the chairperson is not a member. This subcommittee shall 608
have the authority to issue subpoenas regarding complaints 609
referred to it and approve depositions by the Office of the 610
Legislative Inspector General. 611

(2) A complaint other than a complaint by the committee shall 612
be filed with the executive director of the Office of the 613
Legislative Inspector General of the Joint Legislative Ethics 614
Committee. Upon receiving the complaint, the executive director or 615
the executive director's designee shall gather, if necessary, 616
preliminary facts surrounding the complaint for presentation to 617
the chairperson or committee. Thereafter, the executive director 618
shall seal the complaint and deliver it to the chairperson of the 619
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. A complaint by the committee 620
shall be drafted by the legal counsel of the Office of the 621
Legislative Inspector General, and, if at least eight members of 622
the committee approve the draft complaint, the draft complaint 623
shall be a complaint by the committee and shall be filed with the 624
Office of the Legislative Inspector General and delivered to the 625
chairperson of the committee. 626

Within fourteen days after the filing of a complaint by a 627
complainant, the chairperson shall notify the complainant that the 628
complaint has been filed with the committee, that all further 629
proceedings of the committee are confidential, that the committee 630
is required to dismiss the complaint if it is not disposed of 631
within six months after the complaint is filed, and that, if a 632
report dealing with the complaint has not been published in the 633
House or Senate Journal, as appropriate, within that time, the 634
complaint has been dismissed because no violation was found to 635
have been committed by the accused person. Within fourteen days 636
after the filing of any complaint, the chairperson shall deliver a 637
copy of the complaint to the accused person and shall notify the 638
accused person that the accused person may file, within twenty 639

days after receiving the copy, a written response to the complaint 640
with the executive director of the Office of the Legislative 641
Inspector General and, if desired, may file in addition to the 642
written response a request to appear personally before the 643
committee to answer to the complaint. The executive director 644
immediately shall seal the written response to the complaint, the 645
request, or both and deliver the written response, the request, or 646
both to the chairperson. 647

Within forty-five days after the filing of any complaint and 648
at least twenty days after the chairperson has delivered a copy of 649
the complaint to the accused person, the chairperson shall convene 650
a meeting of the committee regarding the complaint. If at least 651
eight members of the committee find that the complaint before the 652
committee is not frivolous and that the facts alleged constitute 653
on their face a breach of privilege, misconduct, a violation of 654
this Code of Ethics or the House or Senate Rules, or a violation 655
of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, 656
the committee shall refer the complaint to the Office of the 657
Legislative Inspector General for further investigation and may 658
delegate to the investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant to 659
division (A) (1) of this section the authority to issue subpoenas 660
regarding a given complaint or other matter. The chairperson of 661
the committee shall notify the accused of the referral. Unless 662
eight members of the committee find that the complaint before the 663
committee alleges facts that, on their face, constitute a breach 664
of privilege, misconduct, a violation of this Code of Ethics or 665
the House or Senate Rules, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 666
sections 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee 667
shall dismiss the complaint. 668

(B) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 669
investigate each complaint referred to it by the committee and 670
shall investigate any other matters as directed by the committee. 671

The Office of the Legislative Inspector General may request 672
further information from the complainant, any person presenting 673
charges to the committee, the accused person if the information 674
sought is directly relevant to a complaint or charges received by 675
the committee pursuant to this section, and any other person it 676
believes may have information pertaining to the complaint or other 677
matter referred for investigation to the Office of the Legislative 678
Inspector General. It may request the committee to issue a 679
subpoena to obtain any necessary information. Upon the approval of 680
the investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant to division 681
(A) (1) of this section, the Office of the Legislative Inspector 682
General may depose any person. Any person interviewed or deposed 683
by the Office of the Legislative Inspector General may be 684
represented by an attorney. The substance of any request for 685
further information and the information provided pursuant to any 686
request are confidential. Except as otherwise provided in this 687
section, the person from whom information is requested shall not 688
divulge the substance of the committee's request to any person 689
other than the person's attorney and shall not divulge the 690
information provided in response to the request to any person 691
other than the person's attorney and any person necessary to 692
prepare the information for delivery to the committee. Except as 693
otherwise provided in this section, no attorney or person who 694
prepares information for delivery to the committee shall divulge 695
the substance of the committee's request or the information 696
provided in response to the request. 697

Upon the completion of an investigation based on a complaint 698
referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, the 699
executive director, or the executive director's designee, shall 700
present to the committee the executive director's or designee's 701
preliminary findings with respect to the facts and evidence 702
gathered regarding the complaint. Upon receiving the preliminary 703
findings, the committee, upon a vote of at least eight members of 704

the committee, may refer the complaint back to the Office of the 705
Legislative Inspector General for further investigation, hold a 706
hearing pursuant to divisions (D) and (G) of this section, order 707
remedial action pursuant to division (D) of this section, or 708
dismiss the complaint. 709

Upon the completion of an investigation of any other matter 710
referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, the 711
executive director or the executive director's designee shall 712
present to the committee the executive director's or designee's 713
preliminary findings with respect to the facts and evidence 714
gathered regarding the matter referred. Upon receiving the 715
preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote of at least eight 716
members of the committee, may refer the matter back to the Office 717
of the Legislative Inspector General for further investigation, 718
request that a complaint be drafted by the legal counsel of the 719
Office of the Legislative Inspector General, terminate the 720
investigation, or hold a hearing pursuant to division (E) of this 721
section. 722

Before the fifth day of each month, the executive director of 723
the Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall make a 724
report, in writing, to the committee regarding the status of any 725
ongoing investigation that the committee referred to the Office of 726
the Legislative Inspector General. 727

(C) Before the committee takes any formal action against a 728
person who is the subject of an investigation based upon a 729
complaint filed with the committee, the committee shall consider 730
the complaint. 731

(D) The committee may defer action on a complaint against 732
members and employees of and candidates for the General Assembly 733
and employees of any legislative agency when the complaint alleges 734
conduct that at least eight members of the committee find reason 735
to believe is being reviewed by appropriate law enforcement or 736

regulatory authorities, or when at least eight members of the 737
committee determine that it is appropriate for the conduct alleged 738
in the complaint to be reviewed initially by law enforcement or 739
regulatory authorities. 740

(E) (1) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 741
committee, at least eight members of the committee find that the 742
complaint is not frivolous and there is reasonable cause to 743
believe that the facts alleged in the complaint constitute a 744
breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 745
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, this Code of 746
Ethics, or the House or Senate Rules, the committee shall hold a 747
hearing. At the hearing, the legal counsel of the Office of the 748
Legislative Inspector General shall present to the committee the 749
case against the accused person, introduce evidence, call 750
witnesses, and cross-examine witnesses. The chairperson of the 751
committee shall make all rulings regarding procedure and the 752
admissibility of evidence. The hearing and all related proceedings 753
of the committee are absolutely confidential as provided under 754
this Code of Ethics and section 102.06 of the Revised Code. No 755
member or employee of the committee, person who staffs or 756
otherwise serves the committee, witness, or other person shall 757
divulge any information about the hearing or related proceedings, 758
except that a witness and the complainant may consult with an 759
attorney before and after the hearing and any related proceeding, 760
any witness may be represented by an attorney while the witness is 761
being examined or cross-examined, the accused person may be 762
represented by an attorney at all stages of the proceedings, and 763
the attorney of the accused person may attend all hearings and 764
related proceedings of the committee. 765

(2) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 766
committee, at least eight members of the committee find that the 767
complaint is frivolous or that there is no reasonable cause to 768

believe that the charge or complaint constitutes a breach of 769
privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or section 770
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, this Code of Ethics, or 771
the House or Senate Rules, the committee shall dismiss the 772
complaint and notify the accused person in writing of the 773
dismissal of the complaint. If the committee so dismisses the 774
complaint, the committee shall not issue a report of its findings 775
unless the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 776
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 777
accordance with division (F)(2) of this section. 778

(3) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 779
committee, the committee finds by unanimous concurrence of its 780
membership that there is reasonable cause to believe that the 781
charges presented constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, or 782
a violation of this Code of Ethics or the House or Senate Rules 783
but do not constitute a violation of Chapter 102. or section 784
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code and also finds by unanimous 785
concurrence of its membership that the breach of privilege, 786
misconduct, or violation was in good faith and without wrongful 787
intent and the person has taken or will take suitable remedial 788
action, it may order the person to take any further remedial 789
action it considers necessary and, upon satisfaction that any 790
order it makes is complied with, terminate the investigation, with 791
the concurrence of the accused person. If an investigation is so 792
terminated, the committee shall not issue a report of its findings 793
unless the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 794
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 795
accordance with division (F)(2) of this section. If the accused 796
person fails to comply with an order of the committee, the 797
committee, upon concurrence of at least eight of its members, 798
shall proceed with the original complaint filed against the 799
person. 800

(F) (1) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that the facts alleged in the complaint are true and constitute a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee, upon concurrence of at least eight of its members, shall order the Office of the Legislative Inspector General to prepare a report of the committee's findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority or other appropriate body for proceedings in prosecution of the violations and, in accordance with division (F) (1) of this section, issue a report to the General Assembly recommending reprimand, censure, expulsion, or other sanction the committee considers appropriate. Upon acceptance by at least eight members of the committee of the report to the appropriate prosecuting authority or other appropriate body, the committee shall report its findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority, the Elections Commission, or other appropriate body. This report is the investigative report described in division (E) of section 101.34 of the Revised Code and shall contain any findings of fact and conclusions of law made by the committee. This report shall not contain any papers, records, affidavits, or documents upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating to the proceedings of the committee. If at least eight members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that the facts alleged in the complaint are true and constitute a violation of division (B) of section 102.031 of the Revised Code, the committee may impose a fine of not more than one thousand dollars upon the member.

(2) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that a breach of privilege has been committed or that a member or employee of or candidate for the General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency has violated a provision of this Code of

Ethics or the House or Senate Rules that is not a violation of 834
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or 835
has committed misconduct, the committee, upon concurrence of at 836
least eight of its members and in accordance with division (F) (1) 837
of this section, may issue a report recommending reprimand, 838
censure, expulsion, or other sanction the committee considers 839
appropriate or, upon a finding by unanimous concurrence of its 840
membership that the breach of privilege, misconduct, or violation 841
was in good faith and without wrongful intent and the person has 842
taken or will take suitable remedial action, may order the person 843
to take any further remedial action it considers necessary and, 844
upon satisfaction that any order it makes is complied with, 845
dismiss the complaint without issuing a report of its findings, 846
unless the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 847
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 848
accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. If the person 849
fails to comply with an order of the committee, the committee, 850
upon concurrence of eight of its members, shall recommend some 851
sanction. 852

(3) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight members 853
of the committee do not find, based upon a preponderance of the 854
evidence, that the facts alleged in a complaint constitute a 855
breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 856
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, this Code of 857
Ethics, or the House or Senate Rules, the committee shall dismiss 858
the complaint. The complaint shall also be dismissed if the 859
committee has not conducted a hearing within ninety days after the 860
complaint is filed with the committee, or if the committee has not 861
finally disposed of the complaint within six months after the 862
complaint is filed with the committee. The committee shall notify 863
the accused person in writing of the dismissal of the complaint. 864
The committee shall not issue a report of its findings unless the 865
accused person requests a report. If the accused person requests a 866

report, the committee shall issue a report in accordance with 867
division (F) (2) of this section. If the committee issues the 868
report, all evidence and the record of the hearing shall remain 869
confidential unless the accused person also requests that the 870
evidence and record be made public. Upon request by the accused 871
person, the committee shall make the evidence and the record 872
available for public inspection. 873

(G) (1) Any report of the committee that is issued pursuant to 874
division (E) (1) of this section and contains a finding that the 875
facts in the complaint are true and constitute a violation of 876
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or 877
that is issued pursuant to division (E) (2) of this section and 878
contains a finding that a breach of privilege, misconduct, or 879
violation of this Code of Ethics or the House or Senate Rules has 880
occurred and recommends reprimand, censure, expulsion, or another 881
appropriate sanction, shall be entered in the House Journal and 882
the Senate Journal. The House of Representatives and the Senate 883
shall vote on approval of any report entered in the House or 884
Senate Journal in accordance with this division. Concurrence of 885
two-thirds of the members of both the House and the Senate shall 886
be necessary for approval of the report, and, upon approval, any 887
recommended sanction shall be imposed immediately. 888

(2) If the investigation of the committee results in a 889
finding that a complaint that is filed is frivolous or that no 890
misconduct, breach of privilege, or violation of Chapter 102. or 891
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, this Code of 892
Ethics, or the House or Senate Rules has been committed or if the 893
committee terminates an investigation or dismisses a complaint 894
pursuant to division (E) (2) or (3) of this section, the committee 895
shall not issue a report of its findings unless the accused person 896
requests a report. If the accused person requests a report, the 897
committee shall issue a report and publish it in the House 898

Journal, if the accused person is a member or employee of, or 899
candidate for, the House of Representatives, or the Senate 900
Journal, if the accused person is a member or employee of, or 901
candidate for, the Senate or an employee of any legislative 902
agency. A report published in the House or Senate Journal under 903
division (F) (2) of this section does not require a vote by the 904
House or Senate. 905

(H) A person against whom a complaint is filed shall be given 906
by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal 907
service reasonable notice of the date, time, and place of the 908
hearing and a statement of the charges and the law or provision 909
directly involved, and shall be granted the following rights: to 910
be represented by counsel, to have counsel appointed for the 911
person if the person is unable to afford counsel without undue 912
hardship, to examine the evidence against the person, to have 913
access to all information relative to the complaint that is in the 914
possession or knowledge of the committee or the Office of the 915
Legislative Inspector General, to produce evidence and to call and 916
subpoena witnesses in the person's defense, to confront the 917
person's accusers, to cross-examine witnesses, to have a 918
stenographic record made of the hearing, to have the hearing 919
follow the rules of evidence applicable to the courts of this 920
state, and to have the hearing closed to the public. A person, 921
with the approval of the committee, may waive any or all of such 922
rights by executing a written waiver and filing it with the 923
committee. 924

(I) The chairperson of the committee and the executive 925
director and chief legal counsel of the Office of the Legislative 926
Inspector General may administer oaths, and the committee or the 927
investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant to division (A) (1) 928
of this section may issue subpoenas to any person in the state 929
compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production of 930

relevant papers, books, accounts, and records. The committee or 931
the investigation subcommittee shall issue subpoenas to compel the 932
attendance of witnesses and the production of documents upon the 933
request of an accused person. Section 101.42 of the Revised Code 934
shall govern the issuance of such subpoenas insofar as applicable. 935
Upon the refusal of any person to obey a subpoena, be sworn, or 936
answer as a witness, the committee or the investigation 937
subcommittee may apply to the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin 938
County under section 2705.03 of the Revised Code. The court shall 939
hold proceedings in accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised 940
Code. The committee, the Office of the Legislative Inspector 941
General, or the accused person may take the depositions of 942
witnesses residing within or without the state in the same manner 943
as prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in civil 944
actions in the court of common pleas. 945

(J) (1) All complaints, papers, records, affidavits, and 946
documents upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating 947
to the proceedings of the committee shall be sealed and are 948
private and confidential, except as otherwise provided in this 949
section. The substance of any charges received by the committee 950
and of any request made by the committee for further information, 951
any information received by the committee, all testimony and other 952
evidence presented during a hearing, and all committee discussions 953
are private and confidential, except as otherwise provided in this 954
section. No person serving on or employed in the service of the 955
committee, or employee of the Office of the Legislative Inspector 956
General who staffs or otherwise assists the committee or the 957
Office of the Legislative Inspector General employee who staffs 958
the committee shall divulge any of the following: 959

(a) Any matter concerning a complaint after it is filed with 960
the executive director of the Office of the Legislative Inspector 961
General; 962

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

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

(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:

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

(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:

(i) Any employees or staff of the committee;

(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;

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

(iv) Any other persons employed by or assigned to serve the committee.	993 994
(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.	995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001 1002 1003 1004 1005
(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.	1006 1007 1008 1009 1010
(L) The committee shall deliver all notices and other documents by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service.	1011 1012 1013
(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.	1014 1015 1016 1017 1018
SECTION 14. AMENDMENTS TO THE ETHICS CODE	1019
The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend amendments to this Code of Ethics at any time by proposing to the General Assembly a concurrent resolution containing the desired amendments.	1020 1021 1022 1023

SECTION 15. DISTRIBUTION OF ETHICS CODE 1024

Each member and employee of the General Assembly and each 1025
employee of any legislative agency shall be given a copy of this 1026
Code of Ethics within ten days after its adoption. 1027

SECTION 16. APPLICATION TO ~~128th~~ 129th GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1028

The Code of Ethics for the ~~127th~~ 128th General Assembly shall 1029
be effective until the ~~128th~~ 129th General Assembly adopts the 1030
Code of Ethics for the ~~128th~~ 129th General Assembly. 1031