

As Introduced

**131st General Assembly
Regular Session
2015-2016**

H. C. R. No. 3

Representative Amstutz

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

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

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

WHEREAS, The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee is the 13
appropriate ethics committee for matters relating to members 14
and employees of the General Assembly, employees of any 15
legislative agency, including the Capitol Square Review and 16
Advisory Board, Correctional Institution Inspection 17
Committee, Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, Joint 18
Medicaid Oversight Committee, Legislative Information 19
Systems, Legislative Inspector General, Legislative Service 20

Commission, and Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission, 21
and candidates for the office of member of the General Assembly; 22
now therefore be it 23

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and the Senate 24
of the 131st General Assembly adopt the following Legislative 25
Code of Ethics: 26

LEGISLATIVE CODE OF ETHICS 27

FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE 28

131st OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 29

EMPLOYEES OF ANY LEGISLATIVE AGENCY, 30

AND CANDIDATES FOR THE 132nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY 31

SECTION 1. CONDUCT 32

All members of the Senate or the House of Representatives 33
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit 34
upon the member's respective chamber of the General Assembly, 35
shall obey all rules of the member's respective chamber of the 36
General Assembly, and shall conform the member's conduct to this 37
Code of Ethics. All employees of the Senate or House of 38
Representatives and all employees of any legislative agency 39
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit 40
upon the employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly 41
or institution of employment, shall obey all rules of the 42
employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly or 43
institution of employment, and shall conform the employee's 44
conduct to this Code of Ethics. 45

SECTION 2. DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 46

(A) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 47
accept disclosure statements filed by members and employees of 48
the General Assembly and employees of any legislative agency 49
pursuant to section 102.02 of the Revised Code and shall 50

maintain a file of all disclosure statements that are filed 51
pursuant to that section. Every member of the General Assembly 52
and every employee of the General Assembly and any legislative 53
agency who is required to file a financial disclosure statement, 54
within the period prescribed by law, shall file with the Office 55
of the Legislative Inspector General, a disclosure statement as 56
provided for by section 102.02 of the Revised Code. Each member 57
and each employee of the General Assembly and employee of any 58
legislative agency required to file a financial disclosure 59
statement, within the period and in the manner prescribed by 60
section 102.02 of the Revised Code, shall receive from the 61
Office of the Legislative Inspector General the form on which 62
the statement shall be prepared. 63

(B) Division (A) (2) (c) of section 102.02 of the Revised 64
Code applies to members of the General Assembly who are 65
attorneys or physicians or who otherwise engage in the practice 66
of a profession and to the clients, patients, and other 67
recipients of professional services of members of the General 68
Assembly who are attorneys or physicians or who otherwise engage 69
in the practice of a profession, even if those clients, 70
patients, and other recipients of professional services are 71
legislative agents. 72

(C) Division (A) (8) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 73
requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee of the 74
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file a 75
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code to 76
identify on a disclosure statement the source and amount of any 77
payment of expenses incurred for travel to destinations inside 78
or outside this state that the member or employee receives in 79
the member's or employee's own name or that another person 80
receives for the member's or employee's use or benefit in 81
connection with the member's or employee's official duties, 82
except for expenses for travel to meetings or conventions of a 83

national or state organization to which any state agency, 84
including, but not limited to, any legislative agency or state 85
institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.011 86
of the Revised Code, pays membership dues, or any political 87
subdivision or any office or agency of a political subdivision 88
pays membership dues. 89

(D) Division (A) (9) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 90
requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee of the 91
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file a 92
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code to 93
identify on a disclosure statement the source of payment of 94
expenses for meals and other food and beverages that are 95
incurred in connection with the person's official duties and 96
that exceed one hundred dollars aggregated per calendar year, 97
except for expenses for meals and other food and beverages 98
provided at a meeting at which the member or employee 99
participated in a panel, seminar, or speaking engagement or at a 100
meeting or convention of a national or state organization to 101
which a state agency, including, but not limited to, any 102
legislative agency or state institution of higher education as 103
defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays membership 104
dues, or any political subdivision or any office or agency of a 105
political subdivision pays membership dues. 106

(E) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (E) (2) of 107
this section, in accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised 108
Code, every member of the General Assembly and every employee of 109
the General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file 110
an annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 111
shall disclose the source of a gift or gifts, where the value of 112
the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar year exceeds seventy- 113
five dollars, except gifts received by will or by virtue of 114
section 2105.06 of the Revised Code, or received from spouses, 115
parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, 116

nephews, nieces, uncles, aunts, cousins, brothers-in-law, 117
sisters-in-law, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, fathers-in-law, 118
mothers-in-law, step-relations, or any person to whom the member 119
or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 120
legislative agency stands in loco parentis, or received by way 121
of distribution from any inter vivos or testamentary trust 122
established by a spouse or by an ancestor. 123

(2) In accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised Code, 124
every member of the General Assembly and every employee of the 125
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file an 126
annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code shall 127
disclose the source of a gift or gifts from a legislative agent, 128
where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar 129
year exceeds twenty-five dollars. 130

SECTION 3. LICENSE DISCLOSURE 131

Any member of the General Assembly who engages in the 132
conduct or practice of a particular business, profession, trade, 133
or occupation that is subject to licensing or regulation by any 134
branch, department, division, institution, instrumentality, 135
board, commission, or bureau of the state shall file a notice 136
that the member is the holder of a particular license, or is 137
engaged in such activity, as part of the financial disclosure 138
statement required by section 102.02 of the Revised Code. 139

SECTION 4. VOTING ABSTENTION 140

(A) A member who has reason to believe that the member has 141
a substantial personal interest in legislation may request 142
permission of the chair to abstain from voting on the 143
legislation and may state the member's reason for the request. 144
The request shall be granted by the chair or the member's 145
respective chamber of the General Assembly pursuant to the rules 146
of that chamber. The request and permission to abstain shall be 147
entered in the House or Senate Journal, as is appropriate. 148

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall vote on any 149
legislation that the member knows is then being actively 150
advocated if the member is one of the following with respect to 151
a legislative agent or employer that is then actively advocating 152
on that legislation: 153

(1) An employee, as defined in section 102.031 of the 154
Revised Code; 155

(2) A business associate, as defined in section 102.031 of 156
the Revised Code; 157

(3) A person, other than an employee, who is hired under 158
contract to perform certain services, and such position involves 159
a substantial and material exercise of administrative discretion 160
in the formulation of public policy. 161

(C) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may impose a 162
fine of not more than one thousand dollars upon a member of the 163
General Assembly who violates division (B) of this section. 164

SECTION 5. COMPENSATION 165

(A) Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of 166
the Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the 167
General Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall 168
receive or agree to receive, directly or indirectly, 169
compensation other than from the house with which the person 170
serves or from any legislative agency, if the person is a 171
legislative agency employee, for any service rendered or to be 172
rendered by the person personally in any case, proceeding, 173
application, or other matter that is before the General Assembly 174
or any department, division, institution, instrumentality, 175
board, commission, or bureau of the state, excluding the courts. 176

Division (A) of this section shall not be construed to 177
prohibit the performance of ministerial functions, including, 178
but not limited to, the filing or amendment of tax returns, 179

applications for permits and licenses, incorporation papers, 180
security registrations, and other documents. 181

Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of the 182
Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the General 183
Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall sell or 184
agree to sell, except through competitive bidding, any goods or 185
services to the General Assembly or any department, division, 186
institution, instrumentality, board, commission, or bureau of 187
the state, excluding the courts. 188

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 189
employee of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept any of 190
the following from a legislative agent: 191

(1) The payment of any expenses for travel or lodging 192
except as otherwise authorized by division (H) of section 102.03 193
of the Revised Code; 194

(2) More than seventy-five dollars aggregated per calendar 195
year as payment for meals and other food and beverages, other 196
than for those meals and other food and beverages provided to 197
the member or employee at a meeting at which the member or 198
employee participates in a panel, seminar, or speaking 199
engagement, at a meeting or convention of a national 200
organization to which either house of the General Assembly or 201
any state agency, including, but not limited to, any legislative 202
agency or state institution of higher education as defined in 203
section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays membership dues, or 204
at a dinner, party, or function to which all members of the 205
General Assembly or all members of either house of the General 206
Assembly are invited. 207

(C) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 208
employee of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept from a 209
legislative agent a gift of any amount in the form of cash or 210
the equivalent of cash, or a gift or gifts of any other thing of 211

value where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per 212
calendar year exceeds seventy-five dollars. As used in this 213
division, "gift" does not include any contribution as defined in 214
section 3517.01 of the Revised Code or any gifts of meals and 215
other food and beverages or the payment of expenses incurred for 216
travel to destinations either inside or outside this state that 217
is received by a member of the General Assembly and that is 218
incurred in connection with the member's official duties. 219

(D) It is not a violation of division (B) (2) of this 220
section if, within sixty days after receiving notice pursuant to 221
division (F) (2) of section 101.73 of the Revised Code from a 222
legislative agent that the legislative agent has provided a 223
member of the General Assembly or an employee of the General 224
Assembly or any legislative agency with more than seventy-five 225
dollars aggregated in a calendar year as payment for meals and 226
other food and beverages that were purchased for consumption on 227
the premises in which the food and beverages were sold, the 228
member or employee of the General Assembly or employee of any 229
legislative agency returns to that legislative agent the amount 230
received that exceeds seventy-five dollars. 231

SECTION 6. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 232

No present or former member or employee of the General 233
Assembly or present or former employee of any legislative agency 234
shall disclose or use for the member's or employee's personal 235
profit, without appropriate authorization, any information 236
acquired by the member or employee in the course of the member's 237
or employee's official duties that has been clearly designated 238
to the member or employee as confidential when such confidential 239
designation is warranted because of the status of the 240
proceedings or the circumstances under which the information was 241
received and preserving its confidentiality is necessary to the 242
proper conduct of government business. No present or former 243
member or employee of the General Assembly or present or former 244

employee of any legislative agency shall disclose or use, 245
without appropriate authorization, any information acquired by 246
the member or employee in the course of the member's or 247
employee's official duties that is confidential because of 248
statutory provisions, except as provided in section 101.30 of 249
the Revised Code or Section 12 or 13 of Article II, Ohio 250
Constitution. 251

SECTION 7. IMPROPER INFLUENCE 252

(A) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 253
employee of any legislative agency shall use or attempt to use 254
or authorize the use of the authority or influence of the 255
member's or employee's office or employment to secure anything 256
of value or the promise or offer of anything of value that is of 257
such a character as to manifest a substantial and improper 258
influence upon the member or employee with respect to the 259
member's or employee's duties. 260

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or 261
employee of any legislative agency shall solicit or accept 262
anything of value that is of such a character as to manifest a 263
substantial and improper influence upon the member or employee 264
with respect to the member's or employee's duties. 265

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

Code. 277

(D) In the absence of bribery or another offense under the 278
Revised Code or a purpose to defraud, the receipt of 279
contributions, as defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised 280
Code, made to a campaign committee, political party, legislative 281
campaign fund, political action committee, or political 282
contributing entity on behalf of a member of or candidate for 283
the General Assembly does not violate divisions (A) and (B) of 284
this section. 285

(E) A member or employee of the General Assembly and an 286
employee of any legislative agency may accept travel, meals, and 287
lodging or expenses or reimbursement of expenses for travel, 288
meals, and lodging in connection with conferences, seminars, and 289
similar events related to the member's or employee's official 290
duties if the travel, meals, lodging, expenses, or reimbursement 291
is not of such a character as to manifest a substantial and 292
improper influence upon the member or employee with respect to 293
those duties and if, in relation to expenses or reimbursement 294
for travel or lodging provided to a member by a legislative 295
agent, the expenses or reimbursement are not made in violation 296
of division (C) (1) of section 102.031 of the Revised Code. A 297
member or employee who acts in compliance with this division 298
does not violate division (A), (B), or (C) of this section. 299

SECTION 8. STAFF USE 300

(A) A member of the General Assembly shall utilize General 301
Assembly employees only for the official purposes for which they 302
are employed. 303

(B) (1) In accordance with section 3517.092 of the Revised 304
Code, no member of or candidate for the General Assembly, no 305
campaign committee of a member of or candidate for the General 306
Assembly, no legislative caucus campaign committee, and no other 307
person or entity shall knowingly solicit or accept a 308

contribution on behalf of that member or candidate, that 309
member's or candidate's campaign committee, or a legislative 310
caucus campaign committee from any of the following: 311

(a) A state employee whose appointing authority is the 312
member of the General Assembly; 313

(b) A state employee whose appointing authority is 314
authorized or required by law to be appointed by the member of 315
the General Assembly; 316

(c) A state employee who functions in or is employed by the 317
Ohio Senate, the Ohio House of Representatives, or any 318
legislative agency; 319

(d) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose 320
appointing authority will be the candidate for the General 321
Assembly, if elected; 322

(e) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose 323
appointing authority will be appointed by the candidate for the 324
General Assembly, if elected, as authorized or required 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 shall accept for personal or business use anything of value from a political party, political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or campaign committee other than the member's or candidate's own campaign committee, except for the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 payment 506
made in consideration for any speech given, article published, 507
or attendance at any public or private conference, convention, 508
meeting, social event, meal, or similar gathering. "Honorarium" 509
does not include ceremonial gifts or awards that have 510
insignificant monetary value; unsolicited gifts of nominal value 511
or trivial items of informational value; or earned income from 512
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 or 520
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 division may request the committee to issue the written opinion as an advisory opinion. The person may make the request at any time within thirty days after the written opinion is issued and prior to committing any proposed action discussed in the written opinion. Upon receiving a timely request and with the approval of a majority of the members of the committee, the committee may issue the written opinion as an advisory opinion. If the committee issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion, the advisory opinion has the same legal effect as an advisory opinion issued under division (B) of this section and is a public record available under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. If the person commits any proposed action discussed in the written opinion before the committee issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion, the advisory opinion grants no immunity to the person regarding any action that is discussed in the written opinion and that the person commits before the committee issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion.

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

(E) All requests for an opinion shall be submitted in writing by the member or employee of or candidate for the General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency who desires the opinion and shall state in the request whether the opinion is being publicly or privately sought. If the request fails to state whether the opinion is being publicly or privately sought, the committee shall consider the opinion to be privately sought. The committee shall issue in writing all advisory opinions that have been publicly sought, appropriately

number them, and make them available for public inspection. The 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, ~~or the House or Senate~~ 608
~~rules~~. All complaints except those by the committee shall be by 609
affidavit made on personal knowledge, subject to the penalties 610
of perjury. A complaint by the committee shall be by affidavit, 611
based upon facts that constitute reasonable cause to believe 612
that a breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of ~~the~~ 613
~~House or Senate rules~~, this Code of Ethics, ~~or~~ Chapter 102. or 614
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, ~~or~~ has occurred. 615
The complaint shall not contain innuendo, speculative 616
assertions, or conclusory statements. 617

At the first meeting of the committee in each calendar 618
year, the chairperson of the committee for that year shall 619
appoint an investigation subcommittee. The subcommittee shall 620
consist of the chairperson of the committee for that year and a 621
member of the committee who is a member of the chamber and 622
political party of which the chairperson is not a member. This 623
subcommittee shall have the authority to issue subpoenas 624
regarding complaints referred to it and approve depositions by 625
the Office of the Legislative Inspector General. 626

(2) A complaint other than a complaint by the committee 627

shall be filed with the executive director of the Office of the 628
Legislative Inspector General of the Joint Legislative Ethics 629
Committee. Upon receiving the complaint, the executive director 630
or the executive director's designee shall gather, if necessary, 631
preliminary facts surrounding the complaint for presentation to 632
the chairperson or committee. Thereafter, the executive director 633
shall seal the complaint and deliver it to the chairperson of 634
the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. A complaint by the 635
committee shall be drafted by the legal counsel of the Office of 636
the Legislative Inspector General, and, if at least eight 637
members of the committee approve the draft complaint, the draft 638
complaint shall be a complaint by the committee and shall be 639
filed with the Office of the Legislative Inspector General and 640
delivered to the chairperson of the committee. 641

Within fourteen days after the filing of a complaint by a 642
complainant, the chairperson shall notify the complainant that 643
the complaint has been filed with the committee, that all 644
further proceedings of the committee are confidential, that the 645
committee is required to dismiss the complaint if it is not 646
disposed of within six months after the complaint is filed, and 647
that, if a report dealing with the complaint has not been 648
published in the House or Senate Journal, as appropriate, within 649
that time, the complaint has been dismissed because no violation 650
was found to have been committed by the accused person. Within 651
fourteen days after the filing of any complaint, the chairperson 652
shall deliver a copy of the complaint to the accused person and 653
shall notify the accused person that the accused person may 654
file, within twenty days after receiving the copy, a written 655
response to the complaint with the executive director of the 656
Office of the Legislative Inspector General and, if desired, may 657
file in addition to the written response a request to appear 658
personally before the committee to answer to the complaint. The 659
executive director immediately shall seal the written response 660

to the complaint, the request, or both and deliver the written 661
response, the request, or both to the chairperson. 662

Within forty-five days after the filing of any complaint 663
and at least twenty days after the chairperson has delivered a 664
copy of the complaint to the accused person, the chairperson 665
shall convene a meeting of the committee regarding the 666
complaint. If at least eight members of the committee find that 667
the complaint before the committee is not frivolous and that the 668
facts alleged constitute on their face a breach of privilege, 669
misconduct, a violation of this Code of Ethics ~~or the House or~~ 670
~~Senate Rules~~, or a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 671
or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee shall refer the 672
complaint to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General for 673
further investigation and may delegate to the investigation 674
subcommittee appointed pursuant to division (A)(1) of this 675
section the authority to issue subpoenas regarding a given 676
complaint or other matter. The chairperson of the committee 677
shall notify the accused of the referral. Unless eight members 678
of the committee find that the complaint before the committee 679
alleges facts that, on their face, constitute a breach of 680
privilege, misconduct, a violation of this Code of Ethics ~~or the~~ 681
~~House or Senate Rules~~, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 682
sections 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee 683
shall dismiss the complaint. 684

(B) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 685
investigate each complaint referred to it by the committee and 686
shall investigate any other matters as directed by the 687
committee. The Office of the Legislative Inspector General may 688
request further information from the complainant, any person 689
presenting charges to the committee, the accused person if the 690
information sought is directly relevant to a complaint or 691
charges received by the committee pursuant to this section, and 692
any other person it believes may have information pertaining to 693

the complaint or other matter referred for investigation to the 694
Office of the Legislative Inspector General. It may request the 695
committee to issue a subpoena to obtain any necessary 696
information. Upon the approval of the investigation subcommittee 697
appointed pursuant to division (A)(1) of this section, the 698
Office of the Legislative Inspector General may depose any 699
person. Any person interviewed or deposed by the Office of the 700
Legislative Inspector General may be represented by an attorney. 701
The substance of any request for further information and the 702
information provided pursuant to any request are confidential. 703
Except as otherwise provided in this section, the person from 704
whom information is requested shall not divulge the substance of 705
the committee's request to any person other than the person's 706
attorney and shall not divulge the information provided in 707
response to the request to any person other than the person's 708
attorney and any person necessary to prepare the information for 709
delivery to the committee. Except as otherwise provided in this 710
section, no attorney or person who prepares information for 711
delivery to the committee shall divulge the substance of the 712
committee's request or the information provided in response to 713
the request. 714

Upon the completion of an investigation based on a 715
complaint referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector 716
General, the executive director, or the executive director's 717
designee, shall present to the committee the executive 718
director's or designee's preliminary findings with respect to 719
the facts and evidence gathered regarding the complaint. Upon 720
receiving the preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote 721
of at least eight members of the committee, may refer the 722
complaint back to the Office of the Legislative Inspector 723
General for further investigation, hold a hearing pursuant to 724
divisions (D) and (G) of this section, order remedial action 725
pursuant to division (D) of this section, or dismiss the 726

complaint. 727

Upon the completion of an investigation of any other matter 728
referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, the 729
executive director or the executive director's designee shall 730
present to the committee the executive director's or designee's 731
preliminary findings with respect to the facts and evidence 732
gathered regarding the matter referred. Upon receiving the 733
preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote of at least 734
eight members of the committee, may refer the matter back to the 735
Office of the Legislative Inspector General for further 736
investigation, request that a complaint be drafted by the legal 737
counsel of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, 738
terminate the investigation, or hold a hearing pursuant to 739
division (E) of this section. 740

Before the fifth day of each month, the executive director 741
of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall make a 742
report, in writing, to the committee regarding the status of any 743
ongoing investigation that the committee referred to the Office 744
of the Legislative Inspector General. 745

(C) Before the committee takes any formal action against a 746
person who is the subject of an investigation based upon a 747
complaint filed with the committee, the committee shall consider 748
the complaint. 749

(D) The committee may defer action on a complaint against 750
members and employees of and candidates for the General Assembly 751
and employees of any legislative agency when the complaint 752
alleges conduct that at least eight members of the committee 753
find reason to believe is being reviewed by appropriate law 754
enforcement or regulatory authorities, or when at least eight 755
members of the committee determine that it is appropriate for 756
the conduct alleged in the complaint to be reviewed initially by 757
law enforcement or regulatory authorities. 758

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

(2) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the committee, at least eight members of the committee find that the complaint is frivolous or that there is no reasonable cause to believe that the charge or complaint constitutes a breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or this Code of Ethics, ~~or the House or Senate Rules,~~ the committee shall dismiss the

complaint and notify the accused person in writing of the 792
dismissal of the complaint. If the committee so dismisses the 793
complaint, the committee shall not issue a report of its 794
findings unless the accused person requests a report. If the 795
accused person requests a report, the committee shall issue a 796
report in accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. 797

(3) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 798
committee, the committee finds by unanimous concurrence of its 799
membership that there is reasonable cause to believe that the 800
charges presented constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, 801
or a violation of this Code of Ethics ~~or the House or Senate~~ 802
~~Rules~~ but do not constitute a violation of Chapter 102. or 803
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code and also finds by 804
unanimous concurrence of its membership that the breach of 805
privilege, misconduct, or violation was in good faith and 806
without wrongful intent and the person has taken or will take 807
suitable remedial action, it may order the person to take any 808
further remedial action it considers necessary and, upon 809
satisfaction that any order it makes is complied with, terminate 810
the investigation, with the concurrence of the accused person. 811
If an investigation is so terminated, the committee shall not 812
issue a report of its findings unless the accused person 813
requests a report. If the accused person requests a report, the 814
committee shall issue a report in accordance with division (F) 815
(2) of this section. If the accused person fails to comply with 816
an order of the committee, the committee, upon concurrence of at 817
least eight of its members, shall proceed with the original 818
complaint filed against the person. 819

(F) (1) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 820
members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the 821
evidence, that the facts alleged in the complaint are true and 822
constitute a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 823
2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee, upon concurrence of 824

at least eight of its members, shall order the Office of the 825
Legislative Inspector General to prepare a report of the 826
committee's findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority or 827
other appropriate body for proceedings in prosecution of the 828
violations and, in accordance with division (F)(1) of this 829
section, issue a report to the General Assembly recommending 830
reprimand, censure, expulsion, or other sanction the committee 831
considers appropriate. Upon acceptance by at least eight members 832
of the committee of the report to the appropriate prosecuting 833
authority or other appropriate body, the committee shall report 834
its findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority, the 835
Elections Commission, or other appropriate body. This report is 836
the investigative report described in division (E) of section 837
101.34 of the Revised Code and shall contain any findings of 838
fact and conclusions of law made by the committee. This report 839
shall not contain any papers, records, affidavits, or documents 840
upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating to the 841
proceedings of the committee. If at least eight members of the 842
committee find, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that 843
the facts alleged in the complaint are true and constitute a 844
violation of division (B) of section 102.031 of the Revised 845
Code, the committee may impose a fine of not more than one 846
thousand dollars upon the member. 847

(2) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 848
members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the 849
evidence, that a breach of privilege has been committed or that 850
a member or employee of or candidate for the General Assembly or 851
employee of any legislative agency has violated a provision of 852
this Code of Ethics ~~or the House or Senate Rules~~ that is not a 853
violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the 854
Revised Code, or has committed misconduct, the committee, upon 855
concurrence of at least eight of its members and in accordance 856
with division (F)(1) of this section, may issue a report 857

recommending reprimand, censure, expulsion, or other sanction 858
the committee considers appropriate or, upon a finding by 859
unanimous concurrence of its membership that the breach of 860
privilege, misconduct, or violation was in good faith and 861
without wrongful intent and the person has taken or will take 862
suitable remedial action, may order the person to take any 863
further remedial action it considers necessary and, upon 864
satisfaction that any order it makes is complied with, dismiss 865
the complaint without issuing a report of its findings, unless 866
the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 867
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 868
accordance with division (F) (2) of this section. If the person 869
fails to comply with an order of the committee, the committee, 870
upon concurrence of eight of its members, shall recommend some 871
sanction. 872

(3) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 873
members of the committee do not find, based upon a preponderance 874
of the evidence, that the facts alleged in a complaint 875
constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of 876
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code,~~—~~ 877
or this Code of Ethics, ~~or the House or Senate Rules,~~ the 878
committee shall dismiss the complaint. The complaint shall also 879
be dismissed if the committee has not conducted a hearing within 880
ninety days after the complaint is filed with the committee, or 881
if the committee has not finally disposed of the complaint 882
within six months after the complaint is filed with the 883
committee. The committee shall notify the accused person in 884
writing of the dismissal of the complaint. The committee shall 885
not issue a report of its findings unless the accused person 886
requests a report. If the accused person requests a report, the 887
committee shall issue a report in accordance with division (F) 888
(2) of this section. If the committee issues the report, all 889
evidence and the record of the hearing shall remain confidential 890

unless the accused person also requests that the evidence and 891
record be made public. Upon request by the accused person, the 892
committee shall make the evidence and the record available for 893
public inspection. 894

(G) (1) Any report of the committee that is issued pursuant 895
to division (E) (1) of this section and contains a finding that 896
the facts in the complaint are true and constitute a violation 897
of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised 898
Code, or that is issued pursuant to division (E) (2) of this 899
section and contains a finding that a breach of privilege, 900
~~misconduct, or violation of this Code of Ethics or the House or~~ 901
~~Senate Rules~~ has occurred and recommends reprimand, censure, 902
expulsion, or another appropriate sanction, shall be entered in 903
the House Journal and the Senate Journal. The House of 904
Representatives and the Senate shall vote on approval of any 905
report entered in the House or Senate Journal in accordance with 906
this division. Concurrence of two-thirds of the members of both 907
the House and the Senate shall be necessary for approval of the 908
report, and, upon approval, any recommended sanction shall be 909
imposed immediately. 910

(2) If the investigation of the committee results in a 911
finding that a complaint that is filed is frivolous or that no 912
misconduct, breach of privilege, or violation of Chapter 102. or 913
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or this Code of 914
Ethics, ~~or the House or Senate Rules~~ has been committed or if 915
the committee terminates an investigation or dismisses a 916
complaint pursuant to division (E) (2) or (3) of this section, 917
the committee shall not issue a report of its findings unless 918
the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 919
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report and 920
publish it in the House Journal, if the accused person is a 921
member or employee of, or candidate for, the House of 922
Representatives, or the Senate Journal, if the accused person is 923

a member or employee of, or candidate for, the Senate or an 924
employee of any legislative agency. A report published in the 925
House or Senate Journal under division (F) (2) of this section 926
does not require a vote by the House or Senate. 927

(H) A person against whom a complaint is filed shall be 928
given by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by 929
personal service reasonable notice of the date, time, and place 930
of the hearing and a statement of the charges and the law or 931
provision directly involved, and shall be granted the following 932
rights: to be represented by counsel, to have counsel appointed 933
for the person if the person is unable to afford counsel without 934
undue hardship, to examine the evidence against the person, to 935
have access to all information relative to the complaint that is 936
in the possession or knowledge of the committee or the Office of 937
the Legislative Inspector General, to produce evidence and to 938
call and subpoena witnesses in the person's defense, to confront 939
the person's accusers, to cross-examine witnesses, to have a 940
stenographic record made of the hearing, to have the hearing 941
follow the rules of evidence applicable to the courts of this 942
state, and to have the hearing closed to the public. A person, 943
with the approval of the committee, may waive any or all of such 944
rights by executing a written waiver and filing it with the 945
committee. 946

(I) The chairperson of the committee and the executive 947
director and chief legal counsel of the Office of the 948
Legislative Inspector General may administer oaths, and the 949
committee or the investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant 950
to division (A) (1) of this section may issue subpoenas to any 951
person in the state compelling the attendance of witnesses and 952
the production of relevant papers, books, accounts, and records. 953
The committee or the investigation subcommittee shall issue 954
subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the 955
production of documents upon the request of an accused person. 956

Section 101.42 of the Revised Code shall govern the issuance of 957
such subpoenas insofar as applicable. Upon the refusal of any 958
person to obey a subpoena, be sworn, or answer as a witness, the 959
committee or the investigation subcommittee may apply to the 960
Court of Common Pleas of Franklin County under section 2705.03 961
of the Revised Code. The court shall hold proceedings in 962
accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised Code. The 963
committee, the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, or 964
the accused person may take the depositions of witnesses 965
residing within or without the state in the same manner as 966
prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in civil actions 967
in the court of common pleas. 968

(J) (1) All complaints, papers, records, affidavits, and 969
documents upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating 970
to the proceedings of the committee shall be sealed and are 971
private and confidential, except as otherwise provided in this 972
section. The substance of any charges received by the committee 973
and of any request made by the committee for further 974
information, any information received by the committee, all 975
testimony and other evidence presented during a hearing, and all 976
committee discussions are private and confidential, except as 977
otherwise provided in this section. No person serving on or 978
employed in the service of the committee, or employee of the 979
Office of the Legislative Inspector General who staffs or 980
otherwise assists the committee or the Office of the Legislative 981
Inspector General employee who staffs the committee shall 982
divulge any of the following: 983

(a) Any matter concerning a complaint after it is filed 984
with the executive director of the Office of the Legislative 985
Inspector General; 986

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

complaint is filed;	990
(c) Any other information that is made private and confidential by this section.	991 992
(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:	993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000 1001
(a) The issuance of a final report by the committee or any commentary upon the contents of the final report;	1002 1003
(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:	1004 1005 1006 1007 1008 1009 1010
(i) Any employees or staff of the committee;	1011
(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;	1012 1013 1014
(iii) Any employees of the Office of the Legislative Inspector General assigned to staff the committee;	1015 1016
(iv) Any other persons employed by or assigned to serve the committee.	1017 1018
(c) The preparation of any documents necessary for the	1019

operation of the committee by employees of the General Assembly 1020
assigned to the committee chairperson, employees of the General 1021
Assembly assigned to staff the committee, or employees of the 1022
Office of the Legislative Inspector General who assist the 1023
Office of the Legislative Inspector General employee assigned to 1024
staff the committee, except that any confidentiality 1025
requirements of this section applicable to the members of the 1026
committee shall apply to the employees of the General Assembly, 1027
committee, or Office of the Legislative Inspector General who 1028
prepare those documents. 1029

(K) If a complaint filed with the committee alleges a 1030
violation by a member of the committee, the member against whom 1031
the allegation is made shall not vote on the matter. The 1032
committee shall conduct no business concerning complaints unless 1033
a majority of its members are present. 1034

(L) The committee shall deliver all notices and other 1035
documents by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by 1036
personal service. 1037

(M) Within fourteen days after the final disposition of a 1038
complaint, either by dismissal or by referral to the appropriate 1039
prosecuting authority, the committee shall notify the 1040
complainant of the dismissal or referral by certified mail, 1041
return receipt requested, or by personal service. 1042

SECTION 14. AMENDMENTS TO THE ETHICS CODE 1043

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend 1044
amendments to this Code of Ethics at any time by proposing to 1045
the General Assembly a concurrent resolution containing the 1046
desired amendments. 1047

SECTION 15. DISTRIBUTION OF ETHICS CODE 1048

Each member and employee of the General Assembly and each 1049
employee of any legislative agency shall be given a copy of this 1050

Code of Ethics within ten days after its adoption. 1051

SECTION 16. APPLICATION TO ~~131st~~ 132nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1052

The Code of Ethics for the ~~130th~~ 131st General Assembly 1053
shall be effective until the ~~131st~~ 132nd General Assembly adopts 1054
the Code of Ethics for the ~~131st~~ 132nd General Assembly. 1055