

**As Adopted by the House**

**130th General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2013-2014**

**H. C. R. No. 34**

**Representative Huffman**

**Cosponsors: Representatives Adams, R., Amstutz, Anielski, Ashford, Baker,  
Beck, Blair, Blessing, Buchy, Burkley, Butler, Damschroder, Derickson,  
Grossman, Hackett, Hall, Hill, Lynch, McClain, McGregor, Phillips, Roegner,  
Ruhl, Sears, Smith, Stebelton, Strahorn, Speaker Batchelder**

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**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To adopt the Legislative Code of Ethics for the 1  
members and employees of both chambers of the 2  
130th General Assembly, employees of any 3  
legislative agency, and candidates for the 131st 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 Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board, 16  
Correctional Institution Inspection Committee, Joint Committee on 17

Agency Rule Review, Legislative Information Systems, Legislative 18  
Inspector General, Legislative Service Commission, and Ohio 19  
Constitutional Modernization Commission, and candidates for the 20  
office of member of the General Assembly; now therefore be it 21

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives and the Senate of 22  
the 130th General Assembly adopt the following Legislative Code of 23  
Ethics: 24

LEGISLATIVE CODE OF ETHICS 25  
FOR MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE 26  
130th OHIO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 27  
EMPLOYEES OF ANY LEGISLATIVE AGENCY, 28  
AND CANDIDATES FOR THE 131st GENERAL ASSEMBLY 29

SECTION 1. CONDUCT 30

All members of the Senate or the House of Representatives 31  
shall conduct themselves at all times so as to reflect credit upon 32  
the member's respective chamber of the General Assembly, shall 33  
obey all rules of the member's respective chamber of the General 34  
Assembly, and shall conform the member's conduct to this Code of 35  
Ethics. All employees of the Senate or House of Representatives 36  
and all employees of any legislative agency shall conduct 37  
themselves at all times so as to reflect credit upon the 38  
employee's respective chamber of the General Assembly or 39  
institution of employment, shall obey all rules of the employee's 40  
respective chamber of the General Assembly or institution of 41  
employment, and shall conform the employee's conduct to this Code 42  
of Ethics. 43

SECTION 2. DISCLOSURE STATEMENT 44

(A) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 45  
accept disclosure statements filed by members and employees of the 46  
General Assembly and employees of any legislative agency pursuant 47  
to section 102.02 of the Revised Code and shall maintain a file of 48

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

(B) Division (A)(2)(c) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 62  
applies to members of the General Assembly who are attorneys or 63  
physicians or who otherwise engage in the practice of a profession 64  
and to the clients, patients, and other recipients of professional 65  
services of members of the General Assembly who are attorneys or 66  
physicians or who otherwise engage in the practice of a 67  
profession, even if those clients, patients, and other recipients 68  
of professional services are legislative agents. 69

(C) Division (A)(8) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 70  
requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee of the 71  
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file a 72  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code to 73  
identify on a disclosure statement the source and amount of any 74  
payment of expenses incurred for travel to destinations inside or 75  
outside this state that the member or employee receives in the 76  
member's or employee's own name or that another person receives 77  
for the member's or employee's use or benefit in connection with 78  
the member's or employee's official duties, except for expenses 79  
for travel to meetings or conventions of a national or state 80

organization to which any state agency, including, but not limited 81  
to, any legislative agency or state institution of higher 82  
education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised Code, pays 83  
membership dues, or any political subdivision or any office or 84  
agency of a political subdivision pays membership dues. 85

(D) Division (A)(9) of section 102.02 of the Revised Code 86  
requires a member of the General Assembly and an employee of the 87  
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file a 88  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code to 89  
identify on a disclosure statement the source of payment of 90  
expenses for meals and other food and beverages that are incurred 91  
in connection with the person's official duties and that exceed 92  
one hundred dollars aggregated per calendar year, except for 93  
expenses for meals and other food and beverages provided at a 94  
meeting at which the member or employee participated in a panel, 95  
seminar, or speaking engagement or at a meeting or convention of a 96  
national or state organization to which a state agency, including, 97  
but not limited to, any legislative agency or state institution of 98  
higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised 99  
Code, pays membership dues, or any political subdivision or any 100  
office or agency of a political subdivision pays membership dues. 101

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

sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, fathers-in-law, mothers-in-law, 113  
step-relations, or any person to whom the member or employee of 114  
the General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency stands 115  
in loco parentis, or received by way of distribution from any 116  
inter vivos or testamentary trust established by a spouse or by an 117  
ancestor. 118

(2) In accordance with section 102.02 of the Revised Code, 119  
every member of the General Assembly and every employee of the 120  
General Assembly or any legislative agency required to file an 121  
annual statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code shall 122  
disclose the source of a gift or gifts from a legislative agent, 123  
where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar year 124  
exceeds twenty-five dollars. 125

#### SECTION 3. LICENSE DISCLOSURE 126

Any member of the General Assembly who engages in the conduct 127  
or practice of a particular business, profession, trade, or 128  
occupation that is subject to licensing or regulation by any 129  
branch, department, division, institution, instrumentality, board, 130  
commission, or bureau of the state shall file a notice that the 131  
member is the holder of a particular license, or is engaged in 132  
such activity, as part of the financial disclosure statement 133  
required by section 102.02 of the Revised Code. 134

#### SECTION 4. VOTING ABSTENTION 135

(A) A member who has reason to believe that the member has a 136  
substantial personal interest in legislation may request 137  
permission of the chair to abstain from voting on the legislation 138  
and may state the member's reason for the request. The request 139  
shall be granted by the chair or the member's respective chamber 140  
of the General Assembly pursuant to the rules of that chamber. The 141  
request and permission to abstain shall be entered in the House or 142  
Senate Journal, as is appropriate. 143

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall vote on any 144  
legislation that the member knows is then being actively advocated 145  
if the member is one of the following with respect to a 146  
legislative agent or employer that is then actively advocating on 147  
that legislation: 148

(1) An employee, as defined in section 102.031 of the Revised 149  
Code; 150

(2) A business associate, as defined in section 102.031 of 151  
the Revised Code; 152

(3) A person, other than an employee, who is hired under 153  
contract to perform certain services, and such position involves a 154  
substantial and material exercise of administrative discretion in 155  
the formulation of public policy. 156

(C) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may impose a fine 157  
of not more than one thousand dollars upon a member of the General 158  
Assembly who violates division (B) of this section. 159

SECTION 5. COMPENSATION 160

(A) Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of 161  
the Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the General 162  
Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall receive or 163  
agree to receive, directly or indirectly, compensation other than 164  
from the house with which the person serves or from any 165  
legislative agency, if the person is a legislative agency 166  
employee, for any service rendered or to be rendered by the person 167  
personally in any case, proceeding, application, or other matter 168  
that is before the General Assembly or any department, division, 169  
institution, instrumentality, board, commission, or bureau of the 170  
state, excluding the courts. 171

Division (A) of this section shall not be construed to 172  
prohibit the performance of ministerial functions, including, but 173  
not limited to, the filing or amendment of tax returns, 174

applications for permits and licenses, incorporation papers, 175  
security registrations, and other documents. 176

Except as provided in division (D) of section 102.04 of the 177  
Revised Code, no person elected to or employed by the General 178  
Assembly or employed by any legislative agency shall sell or agree 179  
to sell, except through competitive bidding, any goods or services 180  
to the General Assembly or any department, division, institution, 181  
instrumentality, board, commission, or bureau of the state, 182  
excluding the courts. 183

(B) No member or employee of the General Assembly or employee 184  
of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept any of the 185  
following from a legislative agent: 186

(1) The payment of any expenses for travel or lodging except 187  
as otherwise authorized by division (H) of section 102.03 of the 188  
Revised Code; 189

(2) More than seventy-five dollars aggregated per calendar 190  
year as payment for meals and other food and beverages, other than 191  
for those meals and other food and beverages provided to the 192  
member or employee at a meeting at which the member or employee 193  
participates in a panel, seminar, or speaking engagement, at a 194  
meeting or convention of a national organization to which either 195  
house of the General Assembly or any state agency, including, but 196  
not limited to, any legislative agency or state institution of 197  
higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of the Revised 198  
Code, pays membership dues, or at a dinner, party, or function to 199  
which all members of the General Assembly or all members of either 200  
house of the General Assembly are invited. 201

(C) No member or employee of the General Assembly or employee 202  
of any legislative agency shall knowingly accept from a 203  
legislative agent a gift of any amount in the form of cash or the 204  
equivalent of cash, or a gift or gifts of any other thing of value 205

where the value of the gift or gifts aggregated per calendar year 206  
exceeds seventy-five dollars. As used in this division, "gift" 207  
does not include any contribution as defined in section 3517.01 of 208  
the Revised Code or any gifts of meals and other food and 209  
beverages or the payment of expenses incurred for travel to 210  
destinations either inside or outside this state that is received 211  
by a member of the General Assembly and that is incurred in 212  
connection with the member's official duties. 213

(D) It is not a violation of division (B)(2) of this section 214  
if, within sixty days after receiving notice pursuant to division 215  
(F)(2) of section 101.73 of the Revised Code from a legislative 216  
agent that the legislative agent has provided a member of the 217  
General Assembly or an employee of the General Assembly or any 218  
legislative agency with more than seventy-five dollars aggregated 219  
in a calendar year as payment for meals and other food and 220  
beverages that were purchased for consumption on the premises in 221  
which the food and beverages were sold, the member or employee of 222  
the General Assembly or employee of any legislative agency returns 223  
to that legislative agent the amount received that exceeds 224  
seventy-five dollars. 225

SECTION 6. CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION 226

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



the General Assembly or present or former employee of any 238  
legislative agency shall disclose or use, without appropriate 239  
authorization, any information acquired by the member or employee 240  
in the course of the member's or employee's official duties that 241  
is confidential because of statutory provisions, except as 242  
provided in section 101.30 of the Revised Code or Section 12 or 13 243  
of Article II, Ohio Constitution. 244

SECTION 7. IMPROPER INFLUENCE 245

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION 8. STAFF USE

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

(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	302
committee from any of the following:	303
(a) A state employee whose appointing authority is the member	304
of the General Assembly;	305
(b) A state employee whose appointing authority is authorized	306
or required by law to be appointed by the member of the General	307
Assembly;	308
(c) A state employee who functions in or is employed by the	309
Ohio Senate, the Ohio House of Representatives, or any legislative	310
agency;	311
(d) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose	312
appointing authority will be the candidate for the General	313
Assembly, if elected;	314
(e) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, whose	315
appointing authority will be appointed by the candidate for the	316
General Assembly, if elected, as authorized or required by law;	317
(f) A state employee at the time of the solicitation, who	318
will function in or be employed in or by the same public agency,	319
department, division, or office as the candidate for the General	320
Assembly, if elected.	321
(2) As used in this section, "contribution" does not include	322
services provided by individuals volunteering a portion of their	323
time on behalf of a campaign.	324
(C) In addition to any complaint brought or penalty that may	325
be imposed under sections 3517.152 to 3517.157 of the Revised	326
Code, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may receive and	327
initiate complaints against members and employees of, and	328
candidates for, the General Assembly and employees of any	329
legislative agency concerning conduct alleged to be in violation	330
of this section. Upon a finding of a violation of this section,	331

the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend whatever 332  
sanction is appropriate with respect to a particular member, 333  
employee, or candidate as will best maintain in the minds of the 334  
public a good opinion of the conduct and character of members and 335  
employees of the General Assembly. 336

SECTION 9. SEPARATION OF FUNDS 337

(A) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly shall 338  
convert, receive, or accept for personal or business use anything 339  
of value from the member's or candidate's campaign fund, as 340  
defined in section 3517.01 of the Revised Code, including, without 341  
limitation, payments to the member or candidate for services 342  
personally performed by the member or candidate, except as 343  
reimbursement for any of the following: 344

(1) Legitimate and verifiable prior campaign expenses 345  
incurred by the member or candidate; 346

(2) Legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, and necessary prior 347  
expenses incurred by the member or candidate in connection with 348  
duties as the holder of a public office, including, without 349  
limitation, expenses incurred through participation in nonpartisan 350  
or bipartisan events where the participation of the holder of a 351  
public office would normally be expected; 352

(3) Legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, and necessary prior 353  
expenses incurred by a member or candidate while doing any of the 354  
following: 355

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 356  
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue; 357

(b) Raising funds for a political party, political action 358  
committee, campaign committee, legislative campaign fund, 359  
political contributing entity, or other candidate; 360

(c) Participating in the activities of a political party, 361

political action committee, legislative campaign fund, political 362  
contributing entity, or campaign committee; 363

(d) Attending a political party convention or other political 364  
meeting. 365

(B) For purposes of division (A) of this section, an expense 366  
is incurred whenever a member or candidate has either made payment 367  
or is obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or 368  
other credit procedure, or by the use of goods or services 369  
received on account. 370

(C) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly shall 371  
knowingly receive or accept reimbursement for an expense under 372  
division (A) of this section to the extent that the expense 373  
previously was reimbursed or paid from another source of funds. If 374  
an expense is reimbursed under division (A) of this section and is 375  
later paid or reimbursed, wholly or in part, from another source 376  
of funds, a member or candidate shall immediately repay the 377  
reimbursement received under division (A) of this section to the 378  
extent of the payment made or reimbursement received from the 379  
other source. 380

(D) A member of the General Assembly may be reimbursed under 381  
division (A)(1) or (3) of this section for expenses incurred for 382  
the member's meals and lodging in Franklin County if the expenses 383  
otherwise meet the requirements for reimbursement under division 384  
(A)(1) or (3) of this section and were not incurred while the 385  
member was in Franklin County to attend floor sessions of the 386  
General Assembly or meetings of its committees, except that a 387  
member may be reimbursed under division (A)(1), (2), or (3) of 388  
this section for expenses incurred for the member's meals in 389  
Franklin County at any time if the expenses otherwise meet the 390  
requirements for reimbursement under division (A)(1), (2), or (3) 391  
of this section and were incurred for meals at which the member 392  
hosted other persons. 393

(E) No member of or candidate for the General Assembly shall 394  
accept for personal or business use anything of value from a 395  
political party, political action committee, legislative campaign 396  
fund, political contributing entity, or campaign committee other 397  
than the member's or candidate's own campaign committee, except 398  
for the following: 399

(1) Reimbursement for legitimate and verifiable, ordinary, 400  
and necessary prior expenses not otherwise prohibited by law 401  
incurred by the member or candidate while engaged in any 402  
legitimate activity of the political party, political action 403  
committee, legislative campaign fund, political contributing 404  
entity, or such campaign committee. Without limitation, 405  
reimbursable expenses under this division include those incurred 406  
while doing any of the following: 407

(a) Engaging in activities in support of or opposition to 408  
another candidate, political party, or ballot issue; 409

(b) Raising funds for a political party, campaign committee, 410  
legislative campaign fund, or another candidate; 411

(c) Attending a political party convention or other political 412  
meeting. 413

(2) Compensation not otherwise prohibited by law for actual 414  
and valuable personal services rendered under a written contract 415  
to the political party, political action committee, legislative 416  
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or the member's or 417  
candidate's own campaign committee for any legitimate activity of 418  
the political party, political action committee, legislative 419  
campaign fund, political contributing entity, or such campaign 420  
committee. 421

Reimbursable expenses under this division do not include, and 422  
it is a violation of this division for a member or candidate to 423  
accept from a political party, political action committee, 424

legislative campaign fund, political contributing entity, or 425  
campaign committee other than the member's or candidate's own 426  
campaign committee, anything of value for activities primarily 427  
related to the member's or candidate's own campaign for election, 428  
except for contributions to the member's or candidate's campaign 429  
committee. 430

For purposes of this division, an expense is incurred 431  
whenever a member or candidate has either made payment or is 432  
obligated to make payment, as by the use of a credit card or other 433  
credit procedure, or by the use of goods or services received on 434  
account. 435

(F)(1) Divisions (A) and (C) of this section do not prohibit 436  
a member's or candidate's campaign committee from making a direct 437  
advance or post payment from the member's or candidate's campaign 438  
fund to vendors for goods and services for which reimbursement is 439  
permitted under division (A) of this section, except that no 440  
campaign committee shall pay a member or candidate for services 441  
personally performed by the member or the candidate. 442

(2) When any expense that may be reimbursed under division 443  
(A), (C), or (E) of this section is part of other expenses that 444  
may not be paid or reimbursed, the separation of the two types of 445  
expenses for the purpose of allocating for payment or 446  
reimbursement those expenses that may be paid or reimbursed may be 447  
by any reasonable accounting method, considering all of the 448  
surrounding circumstances. 449

(3) For purposes of divisions (A), (C), and (E) of this 450  
section, mileage allowance at a rate not greater than that allowed 451  
by the Internal Revenue Service at the time the travel occurs may 452  
be paid instead of reimbursement for actual travel expenses 453  
allowable. 454

(G) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall report 455

violations of this section to the Elections Commission pursuant to 456  
division (E)(1) of Section 13 of this Code of Ethics. 457

SECTION 10. HONORARIA AND TESTIMONIALS 458

(A) No member of the General Assembly, employee of the 459  
General Assembly who is required to file a financial disclosure 460  
statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code, or employee of 461  
any legislative agency who is required to file a financial 462  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code 463  
shall solicit or accept an honorarium. This division and divisions 464  
(A), (B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics do not 465  
prohibit a member or employee who is required to file a financial 466  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code from 467  
accepting the payment of actual travel expenses, including any 468  
expenses incurred in connection with the travel for lodging, and 469  
meals, food, and beverages provided to the member or employee at a 470  
meeting at which the member or employee participates in a panel, 471  
seminar, or speaking engagement or provided to the member or 472  
employee at a meeting or convention of a national organization to 473  
which either house of the General Assembly, or any state agency, 474  
including, but not limited to, any legislative agency or state 475  
institution of higher education as defined in section 3345.011 of 476  
the Revised Code, pays membership dues. This division and 477  
divisions (A), (B), and (C) of Section 7 of this Code of Ethics do 478  
not prohibit an employee of the General Assembly or employee of 479  
any legislative agency who is not required to file a financial 480  
disclosure statement under section 102.02 of the Revised Code from 481  
accepting an honorarium or the payment of travel, meal, and 482  
lodging expenses if the honorarium, expenses, or both were paid in 483  
recognition of demonstrable business, professional, or esthetic 484  
interests of the employee that exist apart from the employee's 485  
public employment, including, but not limited to, such a 486  
demonstrable interest in public speaking and were not paid by any 487



person or other entity, or by any representative or association of 488  
such person or entities, that is regulated by, doing business 489  
with, or seeking to do business with the General Assembly or any 490  
legislative agency. 491

(B) No member of the General Assembly shall conduct a public 492  
or private fund raising event that seeks to provide money for the 493  
member's personal use. 494

(C) As used in this section, "honorarium" means any payment 495  
made in consideration for any speech given, article published, or 496  
attendance at any public or private conference, convention, 497  
meeting, social event, meal, or similar gathering. "Honorarium" 498  
does not include ceremonial gifts or awards that have 499  
insignificant monetary value; unsolicited gifts of nominal value 500  
or trivial items of informational value; or earned income from any 501  
person, other than a legislative agent, for personal services that 502  
are customarily provided in connection with the practice of a bona 503  
fide business, if that business initially began before the member 504  
or employee conducting that business was elected or appointed to 505  
the member's or employee's office or position of employment. 506

SECTION 11. IMPROPER INDUCEMENT 507

If any person attempts to induce a member or employee of or 508  
candidate for the General Assembly or employee of any legislative 509  
agency to violate any provision of this Code of Ethics, the 510  
member, employee, or candidate shall report the matter to the 511  
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. 512

SECTION 12. ADVISORY BODY 513

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

candidates for the General Assembly and for employees of any 519  
legislative agency. 520

(B) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders an 521  
advisory opinion that has been publicly sought and that relates to 522  
a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of 523  
interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 524  
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the person to whom the 525  
opinion was directed or who was similarly situated may reasonably 526  
rely upon such opinion and shall be immune from criminal 527  
prosecutions, civil suits, or actions for removal from the 528  
person's office or position of employment for a violation of 529  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code 530  
based on facts and circumstances covered by the opinion, if the 531  
opinion states that there is no violation of Chapter 102. or 532  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code. The committee 533  
shall include in every advisory opinion it renders a statement as 534  
to whether the set of circumstances described in the advisory 535  
opinion constitutes a violation of section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of 536  
the Revised Code. When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee 537  
renders an opinion that has been publicly sought, the advisory 538  
opinion is a public record available under section 149.43 of the 539  
Revised Code. 540

(C) When the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee renders a 541  
written opinion that has been privately sought and that relates to 542  
a special set of circumstances involving ethics, conflicts of 543  
interest, or financial disclosure under Chapter 102. or section 544  
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the written opinion does 545  
not have the legal effect of an advisory opinion issued under 546  
division (B) of this section. When the Joint Legislative Ethics 547  
Committee renders a written opinion that has been privately 548  
sought, the written opinion is not a public record available under 549  
section 149.43 of the Revised Code. 550

The person to whom a written opinion is issued under this 551  
division may request the committee to issue the written opinion as 552  
an advisory opinion. The person may make the request at any time 553  
within thirty days after the written opinion is issued and prior 554  
to committing any proposed action discussed in the written 555  
opinion. Upon receiving a timely request and with the approval of 556  
a majority of the members of the committee, the committee may 557  
issue the written opinion as an advisory opinion. If the committee 558  
issues the written opinion as an advisory opinion, the advisory 559  
opinion has the same legal effect as an advisory opinion issued 560  
under division (B) of this section and is a public record 561  
available under section 149.43 of the Revised Code. If the person 562  
commits any proposed action discussed in the written opinion 563  
before the committee issues the written opinion as an advisory 564  
opinion, the advisory opinion grants no immunity to the person 565  
regarding any action that is discussed in the written opinion and 566  
that the person commits before the committee issues the written 567  
opinion as an advisory opinion. 568

(D) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall issue an 569  
advisory opinion under division (B) of this section or a written 570  
opinion under division (C) of this section, whether it is publicly 571  
or privately sought, only at a meeting of the committee and only 572  
with the approval of a majority of the members of the committee. 573

(E) All requests for an opinion shall be submitted in writing 574  
by the member or employee of or candidate for the General Assembly 575  
or employee of any legislative agency who desires the opinion and 576  
shall state in the request whether the opinion is being publicly 577  
or privately sought. If the request fails to state whether the 578  
opinion is being publicly or privately sought, the committee shall 579  
consider the opinion to be privately sought. The committee shall 580  
issue in writing all advisory opinions that have been publicly 581  
sought, appropriately number them, and make them available for 582

public inspection. The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall 583  
conduct all of its proceedings surrounding the rendering of an 584  
opinion so as to protect the confidentiality of those named in the 585  
request for the opinion. 586

SECTION 13. CONSIDERATION AND HEARING OF COMPLAINTS 587

(A)(1) The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee shall receive, 588  
and may initiate, complaints concerning breach of privilege and 589  
complaints against members and employees of and candidates for the 590  
General Assembly and employees of any legislative agency 591  
concerning conduct alleged to be misconduct, a violation of 592  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, 593  
this Code of Ethics, or the House or Senate rules. All complaints 594  
except those by the committee shall be by affidavit made on 595  
personal knowledge, subject to the penalties of perjury. A 596  
complaint by the committee shall be by affidavit, based upon facts 597  
that constitute reasonable cause to believe that a breach of 598  
privilege, misconduct, or a violation of the House or Senate 599  
rules, this Code of Ethics, or Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 600  
2921.43 of the Revised Code, has occurred. The complaint shall not 601  
contain innuendo, speculative assertions, or conclusory 602  
statements. 603

At the first meeting of the committee in each calendar year, 604  
the chairperson of the committee for that year shall appoint an 605  
investigation subcommittee. The subcommittee shall consist of the 606  
chairperson of the committee for that year and a member of the 607  
committee who is a member of the chamber and political party of 608  
which the chairperson is not a member. This subcommittee shall 609  
have the authority to issue subpoenas regarding complaints 610  
referred to it and approve depositions by the Office of the 611  
Legislative Inspector General. 612

(2) A complaint other than a complaint by the committee shall 613  
be filed with the executive director of the Office of the 614

Legislative Inspector General of the Joint Legislative Ethics 615  
Committee. Upon receiving the complaint, the executive director or 616  
the executive director's designee shall gather, if necessary, 617  
preliminary facts surrounding the complaint for presentation to 618  
the chairperson or committee. Thereafter, the executive director 619  
shall seal the complaint and deliver it to the chairperson of the 620  
Joint Legislative Ethics Committee. A complaint by the committee 621  
shall be drafted by the legal counsel of the Office of the 622  
Legislative Inspector General, and, if at least eight members of 623  
the committee approve the draft complaint, the draft complaint 624  
shall be a complaint by the committee and shall be filed with the 625  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General and delivered to the 626  
chairperson of the committee. 627

Within fourteen days after the filing of a complaint by a 628  
complainant, the chairperson shall notify the complainant that the 629  
complaint has been filed with the committee, that all further 630  
proceedings of the committee are confidential, that the committee 631  
is required to dismiss the complaint if it is not disposed of 632  
within six months after the complaint is filed, and that, if a 633  
report dealing with the complaint has not been published in the 634  
House or Senate Journal, as appropriate, within that time, the 635  
complaint has been dismissed because no violation was found to 636  
have been committed by the accused person. Within fourteen days 637  
after the filing of any complaint, the chairperson shall deliver a 638  
copy of the complaint to the accused person and shall notify the 639  
accused person that the accused person may file, within twenty 640  
days after receiving the copy, a written response to the complaint 641  
with the executive director of the Office of the Legislative 642  
Inspector General and, if desired, may file in addition to the 643  
written response a request to appear personally before the 644  
committee to answer to the complaint. The executive director 645  
immediately shall seal the written response to the complaint, the 646  
request, or both and deliver the written response, the request, or 647

both to the chairperson. 648

Within forty-five days after the filing of any complaint and 649  
at least twenty days after the chairperson has delivered a copy of 650  
the complaint to the accused person, the chairperson shall convene 651  
a meeting of the committee regarding the complaint. If at least 652  
eight members of the committee find that the complaint before the 653  
committee is not frivolous and that the facts alleged constitute 654  
on their face a breach of privilege, misconduct, a violation of 655  
this Code of Ethics or the House or Senate Rules, or a violation 656  
of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, 657  
the committee shall refer the complaint to the Office of the 658  
Legislative Inspector General for further investigation and may 659  
delegate to the investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant to 660  
division (A)(1) of this section the authority to issue subpoenas 661  
regarding a given complaint or other matter. The chairperson of 662  
the committee shall notify the accused of the referral. Unless 663  
eight members of the committee find that the complaint before the 664  
committee alleges facts that, on their face, constitute a breach 665  
of privilege, misconduct, a violation of this Code of Ethics or 666  
the House or Senate Rules, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 667  
sections 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee 668  
shall dismiss the complaint. 669

(B) The Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall 670  
investigate each complaint referred to it by the committee and 671  
shall investigate any other matters as directed by the committee. 672  
The Office of the Legislative Inspector General may request 673  
further information from the complainant, any person presenting 674  
charges to the committee, the accused person if the information 675  
sought is directly relevant to a complaint or charges received by 676  
the committee pursuant to this section, and any other person it 677  
believes may have information pertaining to the complaint or other 678  
matter referred for investigation to the Office of the Legislative 679

Inspector General. It may request the committee to issue a 680  
subpoena to obtain any necessary information. Upon the approval of 681  
the investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant to division 682  
(A)(1) of this section, the Office of the Legislative Inspector 683  
General may depose any person. Any person interviewed or deposed 684  
by the Office of the Legislative Inspector General may be 685  
represented by an attorney. The substance of any request for 686  
further information and the information provided pursuant to any 687  
request are confidential. Except as otherwise provided in this 688  
section, the person from whom information is requested shall not 689  
divulge the substance of the committee's request to any person 690  
other than the person's attorney and shall not divulge the 691  
information provided in response to the request to any person 692  
other than the person's attorney and any person necessary to 693  
prepare the information for delivery to the committee. Except as 694  
otherwise provided in this section, no attorney or person who 695  
prepares information for delivery to the committee shall divulge 696  
the substance of the committee's request or the information 697  
provided in response to the request. 698

Upon the completion of an investigation based on a complaint 699  
referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, the 700  
executive director, or the executive director's designee, shall 701  
present to the committee the executive director's or designee's 702  
preliminary findings with respect to the facts and evidence 703  
gathered regarding the complaint. Upon receiving the preliminary 704  
findings, the committee, upon a vote of at least eight members of 705  
the committee, may refer the complaint back to the Office of the 706  
Legislative Inspector General for further investigation, hold a 707  
hearing pursuant to divisions (D) and (G) of this section, order 708  
remedial action pursuant to division (D) of this section, or 709  
dismiss the complaint. 710

Upon the completion of an investigation of any other matter 711

referred to the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, the 712  
executive director or the executive director's designee shall 713  
present to the committee the executive director's or designee's 714  
preliminary findings with respect to the facts and evidence 715  
gathered regarding the matter referred. Upon receiving the 716  
preliminary findings, the committee, upon a vote of at least eight 717  
members of the committee, may refer the matter back to the Office 718  
of the Legislative Inspector General for further investigation, 719  
request that a complaint be drafted by the legal counsel of the 720  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General, terminate the 721  
investigation, or hold a hearing pursuant to division (E) of this 722  
section. 723

Before the fifth day of each month, the executive director of 724  
the Office of the Legislative Inspector General shall make a 725  
report, in writing, to the committee regarding the status of any 726  
ongoing investigation that the committee referred to the Office of 727  
the Legislative Inspector General. 728

(C) Before the committee takes any formal action against a 729  
person who is the subject of an investigation based upon a 730  
complaint filed with the committee, the committee shall consider 731  
the complaint. 732

(D) The committee may defer action on a complaint against 733  
members and employees of and candidates for the General Assembly 734  
and employees of any legislative agency when the complaint alleges 735  
conduct that at least eight members of the committee find reason 736  
to believe is being reviewed by appropriate law enforcement or 737  
regulatory authorities, or when at least eight members of the 738  
committee determine that it is appropriate for the conduct alleged 739  
in the complaint to be reviewed initially by law enforcement or 740  
regulatory authorities. 741

(E)(1) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 742  
committee, at least eight members of the committee find that the 743



complaint is not frivolous and there is reasonable cause to 744  
believe that the facts alleged in the complaint constitute a 745  
breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 746  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, this Code of 747  
Ethics, or the House or Senate Rules, the committee shall hold a 748  
hearing. At the hearing, the legal counsel of the Office of the 749  
Legislative Inspector General shall present to the committee the 750  
case against the accused person, introduce evidence, call 751  
witnesses, and cross-examine witnesses. The chairperson of the 752  
committee shall make all rulings regarding procedure and the 753  
admissibility of evidence. The hearing and all related proceedings 754  
of the committee are absolutely confidential as provided under 755  
this Code of Ethics and section 102.06 of the Revised Code. No 756  
member or employee of the committee, person who staffs or 757  
otherwise serves the committee, witness, or other person shall 758  
divulge any information about the hearing or related proceedings, 759  
except that a witness and the complainant may consult with an 760  
attorney before and after the hearing and any related proceeding, 761  
any witness may be represented by an attorney while the witness is 762  
being examined or cross-examined, the accused person may be 763  
represented by an attorney at all stages of the proceedings, and 764  
the attorney of the accused person may attend all hearings and 765  
related proceedings of the committee. 766

(2) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 767  
committee, at least eight members of the committee find that the 768  
complaint is frivolous or that there is no reasonable cause to 769  
believe that the charge or complaint constitutes a breach of 770  
privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or section 771  
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, this Code of Ethics, or 772  
the House or Senate Rules, the committee shall dismiss the 773  
complaint and notify the accused person in writing of the 774  
dismissal of the complaint. If the committee so dismisses the 775  
complaint, the committee shall not issue a report of its findings 776

unless the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 777  
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 778  
accordance with division (F)(2) of this section. 779

(3) If, in any case in which a complaint is filed with the 780  
committee, the committee finds by unanimous concurrence of its 781  
membership that there is reasonable cause to believe that the 782  
charges presented constitute a breach of privilege, misconduct, or 783  
a violation of this Code of Ethics or the House or Senate Rules 784  
but do not constitute a violation of Chapter 102. or section 785  
2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code and also finds by unanimous 786  
concurrence of its membership that the breach of privilege, 787  
misconduct, or violation was in good faith and without wrongful 788  
intent and the person has taken or will take suitable remedial 789  
action, it may order the person to take any further remedial 790  
action it considers necessary and, upon satisfaction that any 791  
order it makes is complied with, terminate the investigation, with 792  
the concurrence of the accused person. If an investigation is so 793  
terminated, the committee shall not issue a report of its findings 794  
unless the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 795  
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 796  
accordance with division (F)(2) of this section. If the accused 797  
person fails to comply with an order of the committee, the 798  
committee, upon concurrence of at least eight of its members, 799  
shall proceed with the original complaint filed against the 800  
person. 801

(F)(1) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight 802  
members of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the 803  
evidence, that the facts alleged in the complaint are true and 804  
constitute a violation of Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 805  
2921.43 of the Revised Code, the committee, upon concurrence of at 806  
least eight of its members, shall order the Office of the 807  
Legislative Inspector General to prepare a report of the 808

committee's findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority or 809  
other appropriate body for proceedings in prosecution of the 810  
violations and, in accordance with division (F)(1) of this 811  
section, issue a report to the General Assembly recommending 812  
reprimand, censure, expulsion, or other sanction the committee 813  
considers appropriate. Upon acceptance by at least eight members 814  
of the committee of the report to the appropriate prosecuting 815  
authority or other appropriate body, the committee shall report 816  
its findings to the appropriate prosecuting authority, the 817  
Elections Commission, or other appropriate body. This report is 818  
the investigative report described in division (E) of section 819  
101.34 of the Revised Code and shall contain any findings of fact 820  
and conclusions of law made by the committee. This report shall 821  
not contain any papers, records, affidavits, or documents upon any 822  
complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating to the proceedings 823  
of the committee. If at least eight members of the committee find, 824  
based upon a preponderance of the evidence, that the facts alleged 825  
in the complaint are true and constitute a violation of division 826  
(B) of section 102.031 of the Revised Code, the committee may 827  
impose a fine of not more than one thousand dollars upon the 828  
member. 829

(2) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight members 830  
of the committee find, based upon a preponderance of the evidence, 831  
that a breach of privilege has been committed or that a member or 832  
employee of or candidate for the General Assembly or employee of 833  
any legislative agency has violated a provision of this Code of 834  
Ethics or the House or Senate Rules that is not a violation of 835  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or 836  
has committed misconduct, the committee, upon concurrence of at 837  
least eight of its members and in accordance with division (F)(1) 838  
of this section, may issue a report recommending reprimand, 839  
censure, expulsion, or other sanction the committee considers 840  
appropriate or, upon a finding by unanimous concurrence of its 841

membership that the breach of privilege, misconduct, or violation 842  
was in good faith and without wrongful intent and the person has 843  
taken or will take suitable remedial action, may order the person 844  
to take any further remedial action it considers necessary and, 845  
upon satisfaction that any order it makes is complied with, 846  
dismiss the complaint without issuing a report of its findings, 847  
unless the accused person requests a report. If the accused person 848  
requests a report, the committee shall issue a report in 849  
accordance with division (F)(2) of this section. If the person 850  
fails to comply with an order of the committee, the committee, 851  
upon concurrence of eight of its members, shall recommend some 852  
sanction. 853

(3) If, upon the basis of the hearing, at least eight members 854  
of the committee do not find, based upon a preponderance of the 855  
evidence, that the facts alleged in a complaint constitute a 856  
breach of privilege, misconduct, or a violation of Chapter 102. or 857  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, this Code of 858  
Ethics, or the House or Senate Rules, the committee shall dismiss 859  
the complaint. The complaint shall also be dismissed if the 860  
committee has not conducted a hearing within ninety days after the 861  
complaint is filed with the committee, or if the committee has not 862  
finally disposed of the complaint within six months after the 863  
complaint is filed with the committee. The committee shall notify 864  
the accused person in writing of the dismissal of the complaint. 865  
The committee shall not issue a report of its findings unless the 866  
accused person requests a report. If the accused person requests a 867  
report, the committee shall issue a report in accordance with 868  
division (F)(2) of this section. If the committee issues the 869  
report, all evidence and the record of the hearing shall remain 870  
confidential unless the accused person also requests that the 871  
evidence and record be made public. Upon request by the accused 872  
person, the committee shall make the evidence and the record 873  
available for public inspection. 874

(G)(1) Any report of the committee that is issued pursuant to 875  
division (E)(1) of this section and contains a finding that the 876  
facts in the complaint are true and constitute a violation of 877  
Chapter 102. or section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, or 878  
that is issued pursuant to division (E)(2) of this section and 879  
contains a finding that a breach of privilege, misconduct, or 880  
violation of this Code of Ethics or the House or Senate Rules has 881  
occurred and recommends reprimand, censure, expulsion, or another 882  
appropriate sanction, shall be entered in the House Journal and 883  
the Senate Journal. The House of Representatives and the Senate 884  
shall vote on approval of any report entered in the House or 885  
Senate Journal in accordance with this division. Concurrence of 886  
two-thirds of the members of both the House and the Senate shall 887  
be necessary for approval of the report, and, upon approval, any 888  
recommended sanction shall be imposed immediately. 889

(2) If the investigation of the committee results in a 890  
finding that a complaint that is filed is frivolous or that no 891  
misconduct, breach of privilege, or violation of Chapter 102. or 892  
section 2921.42 or 2921.43 of the Revised Code, this Code of 893  
Ethics, or the House or Senate Rules has been committed or if the 894  
committee terminates an investigation or dismisses a complaint 895  
pursuant to division (E)(2) or (3) of this section, the committee 896  
shall not issue a report of its findings unless the accused person 897  
requests a report. If the accused person requests a report, the 898  
committee shall issue a report and publish it in the House 899  
Journal, if the accused person is a member or employee of, or 900  
candidate for, the House of Representatives, or the Senate 901  
Journal, if the accused person is a member or employee of, or 902  
candidate for, the Senate or an employee of any legislative 903  
agency. A report published in the House or Senate Journal under 904  
division (F)(2) of this section does not require a vote by the 905  
House or Senate. 906

(H) A person against whom a complaint is filed shall be given 907  
by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal 908  
service reasonable notice of the date, time, and place of the 909  
hearing and a statement of the charges and the law or provision 910  
directly involved, and shall be granted the following rights: to 911  
be represented by counsel, to have counsel appointed for the 912  
person if the person is unable to afford counsel without undue 913  
hardship, to examine the evidence against the person, to have 914  
access to all information relative to the complaint that is in the 915  
possession or knowledge of the committee or the Office of the 916  
Legislative Inspector General, to produce evidence and to call and 917  
subpoena witnesses in the person's defense, to confront the 918  
person's accusers, to cross-examine witnesses, to have a 919  
stenographic record made of the hearing, to have the hearing 920  
follow the rules of evidence applicable to the courts of this 921  
state, and to have the hearing closed to the public. A person, 922  
with the approval of the committee, may waive any or all of such 923  
rights by executing a written waiver and filing it with the 924  
committee. 925

(I) The chairperson of the committee and the executive 926  
director and chief legal counsel of the Office of the Legislative 927  
Inspector General may administer oaths, and the committee or the 928  
investigation subcommittee appointed pursuant to division (A)(1) 929  
of this section may issue subpoenas to any person in the state 930  
compelling the attendance of witnesses and the production of 931  
relevant papers, books, accounts, and records. The committee or 932  
the investigation subcommittee shall issue subpoenas to compel the 933  
attendance of witnesses and the production of documents upon the 934  
request of an accused person. Section 101.42 of the Revised Code 935  
shall govern the issuance of such subpoenas insofar as applicable. 936  
Upon the refusal of any person to obey a subpoena, be sworn, or 937  
answer as a witness, the committee or the investigation 938  
subcommittee may apply to the Court of Common Pleas of Franklin 939

County under section 2705.03 of the Revised Code. The court shall 940  
hold proceedings in accordance with Chapter 2705. of the Revised 941  
Code. The committee, the Office of the Legislative Inspector 942  
General, or the accused person may take the depositions of 943  
witnesses residing within or without the state in the same manner 944  
as prescribed by law for the taking of depositions in civil 945  
actions in the court of common pleas. 946

(J)(1) All complaints, papers, records, affidavits, and 947  
documents upon any complaint, inquiry, or investigation relating 948  
to the proceedings of the committee shall be sealed and are 949  
private and confidential, except as otherwise provided in this 950  
section. The substance of any charges received by the committee 951  
and of any request made by the committee for further information, 952  
any information received by the committee, all testimony and other 953  
evidence presented during a hearing, and all committee discussions 954  
are private and confidential, except as otherwise provided in this 955  
section. No person serving on or employed in the service of the 956  
committee, or employee of the Office of the Legislative Inspector 957  
General who staffs or otherwise assists the committee or the 958  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General employee who staffs 959  
the committee shall divulge any of the following: 960

(a) Any matter concerning a complaint after it is filed with 961  
the executive director of the Office of the Legislative Inspector 962  
General; 963

(b) In the case of complaints initiated by the committee, any 964  
matter concerning a complaint after the matter is under 965  
investigation by the committee, whether before or after a 966  
complaint is filed; 967

(c) Any other information that is made private and 968  
confidential by this section. 969

(2) The requirement of confidentiality set forth in division 970

(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.

(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 1002  
this section applicable to the members of the committee shall 1003  
apply to the employees of the General Assembly, committee, or 1004  
Office of the Legislative Inspector General who prepare those 1005  
documents. 1006

(K) If a complaint filed with the committee alleges a 1007  
violation by a member of the committee, the member against whom 1008  
the allegation is made shall not vote on the matter. The committee 1009  
shall conduct no business concerning complaints unless a majority 1010  
of its members are present. 1011

(L) The committee shall deliver all notices and other 1012  
documents by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by 1013  
personal service. 1014

(M) Within fourteen days after the final disposition of a 1015  
complaint, either by dismissal or by referral to the appropriate 1016  
prosecuting authority, the committee shall notify the complainant 1017  
of the dismissal or referral by certified mail, return receipt 1018  
requested, or by personal service. 1019

#### SECTION 14. AMENDMENTS TO THE ETHICS CODE 1020

The Joint Legislative Ethics Committee may recommend 1021  
amendments to this Code of Ethics at any time by proposing to the 1022  
General Assembly a concurrent resolution containing the desired 1023  
amendments. 1024

#### SECTION 15. DISTRIBUTION OF ETHICS CODE 1025

Each member and employee of the General Assembly and each 1026  
employee of any legislative agency shall be given a copy of this 1027  
Code of Ethics within ten days after its adoption. 1028

#### SECTION 16. APPLICATION TO 131st GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1029

The Code of Ethics for the 130th General Assembly shall be 1030  
effective until the 131st General Assembly adopts the Code of 1031

Ethics for the 131st General Assembly.

1032