

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE
August 5, 2020 MEETING
{Approved: April 23, 2021}

The Legislative Ethics Committee (RSA 14-B:2) met on Wednesday, August 5, 2020, at 2:00 P.M. in a meeting conducted electronically via Zoom.

Chairman Edward M. Gordon read a statement in accordance with the governor's Emergency Order #12 authorizing electronically-held meetings.

The following committee members participated in the meeting: Representative Edward M. Gordon, Chairman, the Honorable Donna Sytek, Vice Chairman, Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Representative Janet G. Wall, Attorney David H. Bradley, and the Honorable David H. Hess. Senator Sharon M. Carson was unable to attend. Also participating Richard M. Lambert, Executive Administrator.

The Committee's meeting consisted of the following items:

ITEM #1

Consideration of the draft *Minutes* from the Committee's meeting held on February 7, 2020.

Following review, Vice Chairman Sytek moved to approve the *Minutes* as presented. Senator Fuller Clark seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| Vice Chairman Sytek | Yea | |
| Senator Fuller Clark | Yea | |
| Attorney Bradley | Yea | |
| Mr. Hess | | Abstained |
| Representative Wall | | (not yet participating) |
| Chairman Gordon | Yea | |

{MOTION ADOPTED}

ITEM #2

Initial Review of *Complaint 2020-1* and *Complaint 2020-2* (Nonpublic).

Senator Fuller Clark moved to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d) to conduct an Initial Review of *Complaint 2020-1* and *Complaint 2020-2*. Representative Wall seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Vice Chairman Sytek | Yea |
| Senator Fuller Clark | Yea |
| Representative Wall | Yea |
| Attorney Bradley | Yea |
| Mr. Hess | Yea |
| Chairman Gordon | Yea |

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

Senator Fuller Clark moved to exit nonpublic session. Vice Chairman Sytek seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Vice Chairman Sytek | Yea |
| Senator Fuller Clark | Yea |
| Representative Wall | Yea |
| Attorney Bradley | Yea |
| Mr. Hess | Yea |
| Chairman Gordon | Yea |

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated that the Committee during its nonpublic session voted to discharge *Complaint 2020-1* and voted to discharge *Complaint 2020-2*. He said that the parties would be notified by letter.

ITEM #3

Discussion of a matter relating to Rep. Renny Cushing.

Chairman Gordon stated that the Committee had received two letters from House Speaker Stephen Shurtleff and one letter from Representative Renny Cushing about a recorded vote at a House committee meeting. He noted that neither letter from Speaker Shurtleff constituted a sworn complaint. Following discussion, the Committee agreed that Chairman Gordon should write a response to Speaker Shurtleff stating that, as no sworn complaint had been submitted, the Committee would take no further action regarding the matter.

Mr. Hess moved to authorize Chairman Gordon to send such a letter. Vice Chairman Sytek seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Vice Chairman Sytek | Yea |
| Senator Fuller Clark | Yea |
| Representative Wall | Yea |
| Attorney Bradley | Yea |
| Mr. Hess | Yea |
| Chairman Gordon | Yea |

{MOTION ADOPTED}

ITEM #4

Discussion of pending 2020 ethics bills: HB 1694, AN ACT relative to recusal by members of the general court for conflicts of interest; SB 521, AN ACT relative to prohibiting legislator participation or advocacy in matters directly related to their employment; and SB 500, AN ACT relative to financial disclosures by legislators.

Chairman Gordon stated that each of the three bills had been tabled, effectively killing them for the legislative session. He asked if any of the legislator members of the Committee, if re-elected, would be interested in re-introducing any of the bills in the 2021 session of the General Court.

Senator Fuller Clark (who is not running for reelection) expressed the hope that someone would re-file SB 500 so that legislators will not have to file financial disclosure forms annually but instead they would file at the beginning of every biennium unless their financial status changes. Vice Chairman Sytek agreed that that would be good.

Mr. Lambert asked if the Committee agreed that there needs to be an improved electronic version of the Financial Disclosure Form ready for the next session. {See Item #3 in the February 7, 2020 Minutes.} The Committee agreed.

ITEM #5

New/Other business.

{There was no new/other business.}

ITEM #6

Scheduling of the next meeting.

The Committee next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

The Committee's meeting adjourned at approximately 2:50 P.M.

{Prepared by Richard M. Lambert, Executive Administrator}