

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 3, 2015 MEETING
{Approved: March 24, 2015}

The Legislative Ethics Committee (RSA 14-B:2) met on Tuesday, February 3, 2015, at 1:00 P.M. in Room 104 of the Legislative Office Building.

The following members were appointed for the 2015-2016 biennium:
Honorable Donna Sytek, Public Member, designated as Chairman
Senator Sharon M. Carson, designated as Vice Chairman
Senator Martha Fuller Clark
Representative Janet G. Wall
Representative David A. Welch
Honorable John A. Graham, Public Member
(The public member position established by RSA 14-B:2, I(h) had not yet been appointed.)

The following members were present: the Honorable Donna Sytek, Chairman, Senator Sharon M. Carson, Vice Chairman, Senator Martha Fuller Clark, Representative Janet G. Wall, Representative David A. Welch, and the Honorable John A. Graham. Also present: 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 January 27, 2014.

Representative Wall noted that because there were only 3 members of the current Committee present who had attended the January 27, 2014 meeting, the required quorum of 4 members who could vouch for the accuracy of the *Minutes* and approve them was lacking. She suggested the Committee should vote to "conditionally accept" the *Minutes* instead of approving them. After further brief discussion, Representative Wall moved to conditionally accept the *Minutes*. Mr. Graham seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 6 to 0 to adopt the motion.

ITEM #2

Review of 2015 Financial Disclosure Forms. Vote on accepting the filings and transmitting them to the Secretary of State.

The Committee reviewed a report from Mr. Lambert, which indicated the following:

- All 24 members of the Senate filed a form by the January 16, 2015 filing deadline.
- All Senate and House officers filed a form by the January 16, 2015 filing deadline.
- 381 members of the House, out of the 399 who were qualified to serve in the House, filed a form by the January 16, 2015 filing deadline.
- 15 additional House members filed a form, but did so after the January 16, 2015 filing deadline.
- 3 House members did not file a form.

The Committee discussed whether there may have been any extenuating circumstances involving the 3 House members who had not filed. Mr. Lambert said he had been told that one of the members had been hospitalized. Senator Fuller Clark said she had received the same information. Chairman Sytek asked if there was any information regarding the other non-filers. Mr. Lambert said he had contacted the Speaker's Office and House Majority Office and there was no indication of extenuating circumstances regarding the other 2 non-filers. Chairman Sytek said she had contacted House Chief of Staff Terry Pfaff to suggest that the House Majority and Minority offices might want to give the non-filers one more telephone call to ask them to file.

Senator Fuller Clark noted that none of the House members listed as non-filers or late filers had been listed on last year's report.

The Committee reviewed a draft letter to the non-filers and a draft letter to the late filers, which were similar to letters sent by the Committee last year. Senator Fuller Clark noted that the letter to the non-filers would give them 7 days from the date they receive the letter to file or the Committee would consider referral to the Attorney General. Chairman Sytek noted that the letter to the late filers stated that the Committee would accept the forms even though they had missed the deadline. The letter also cautioned the late filers to "be mindful of your responsibility to file the form in a timely manner as long as you serve in the General Court."

After further discussion, Chairman Sytek asked if it was the pleasure of the Committee to send the letters. There was agreement to send the letters.

Senator Fuller Clark moved to transmit the completed forms the Committee had received, and any completed forms the Committee would prospectively receive, to the Secretary of State {pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, IV and RSA 14-B:9}. The motion was seconded by Representative Welch and the Committee voted 6 to 0 to adopt the motion.

ITEM#3

Discussion of the Final Report of the Commission to Study and Update the Rules and Procedures of the Legislative Ethics Committee, and the resulting bill, 2015 House Bill 458, "An Act revising the legislative ethics laws and the guidelines of the legislative ethics committee."

The 3 members of the Committee who also served on the Commission (Chairman Sytek, Senator Fuller Clark, and former Representative Graham) summarized the Commission's recommendations and briefly explained how the Commission arrived at them. Chairman Sytek informed the Committee that House Bill 458 was scheduled to be heard before the House Committee on Legislative Administration on February 5. Representative Welch said that he was the bill's prime sponsor.

ITEM #4

New Business.

{ There was no new business. }

ITEM #5

Scheduling of next meeting.

The Committee will meet next at the call of the Chair.

The Committee's meeting adjourned at approximately 3:58 P.M.

{Prepared by: Richard M. Lambert, Executive Administrator}