

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE
JANUARY 22, 2016 MEETING
{Approved: February 18, 2016}

The Legislative Ethics Committee (RSA 14-B:2) met on Friday, January 22, 2016, at 1:00 P.M. in Room 203 of the Legislative Office Building.

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, the Honorable John A. Graham, and Attorney David H. Bradley. 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 September 21, 2015.

Following review, Senator Fuller Clark moved to approve the *Minutes*. Mr. Graham seconded the motion and the Committee voted 7 to 0 to approve the *Minutes*.

ITEM #2

Initial Review of *Complaint 2015-3* {Confidential}.

Mr. Graham moved to enter nonpublic session {pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d)} to conduct an Initial Review of *Complaint 2015-3*. Senator Fuller Clark seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Mr. Graham	Yea
Attorney Bradley	Yea
Senator Fuller Clark	Yea
Chairman Sytek	Yea
Senator Carson	Yea
Representative Wall	Yea
Representative Welch	Yea
{MOTION ADOPTED}	

{Nonpublic Session}

Mr. Graham moved to exit nonpublic session. Representative Welch seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Mr. Graham	Yea
Attorney Bradley	Yea
Senator Fuller Clark	Yea
Chairman Sytek	Yea
Senator Carson	Yea
Representative Wall	Yea
Representative Welch	Yea
{MOTION ADOPTED}	

Chairman Sytek announced that the Committee, in its nonpublic session, voted to dismiss *Complaint #2015-3*.

ITEM #3

Review of 2016 Financial Disclosure Forms. Vote on accepting filings and transmittal to the Secretary of State.

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

- 23 members of the Senate filed a form by the January 15, 2016 filing deadline and one Senator filed on January 20, 2016.
- All Senate and House officers filed a form by the January 15, 2016 filing deadline.
- 362 members of the House, out of the 399 who were qualified to serve in the House, filed a form by the January 15, 2016 filing deadline, while 29 additional House members filed a form after the deadline.
- 8 House members had not filed a form.

The Committee discussed whether there may have been any extenuating circumstances involving the 8 House members who had not filed. The Committee discussed that there were health issues involving 4 of the 8 members.

The Committee reviewed a draft letter to the non-filers, which was similar to the letter sent by the Committee last year. Following further discussion, Senator Carson moved to send the letter to all 8 House members who had not filed and 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 letter to the non-filers stated that the Committee would give the non-filers 7 days from the date they receive the letter to file or the Committee would consider referral of the matter to the Attorney General. Mr. Graham seconded the motion and the Committee voted 6 to 0 in favor of the motion.

The Committee also generally discussed the annual filing process. Representative Wall suggested another approach could involve distributing the Financial Disclosure Forms to House members during the first day of each legislative session and asking members to complete the forms while in attendance, perhaps during a brief recess. The Committee was receptive to this suggestion. Mr. Lambert suggested that the electronic filing process could be improved to make it more user-friendly. The Committee agreed that should be pursued.

ITEM #4

Ratification of the adoption of *Advisory Opinion 2015-4* (December 1, 2015).

Chairman Sytek explained that the opinion had been adopted via exchange of email messages and telephone conversations, and that under its rules, the Committee is required to ratify the adoption {pursuant to Procedural Rule 2, paragraphs II and III}. Following a brief discussion, Attorney Bradley moved to ratify *Advisory Opinion 2015-4*. Senator Carson seconded the motion and the Committee voted 6 to 0 to ratify *Advisory Opinion 2015-4*.

ITEM#5

Update on the Status of 2015 House Bill 458, “An Act revising the legislative ethics laws and the guidelines of the legislative ethics committee.”

The Committee discussed the fact that the bill had passed the Senate with an amendment and would be sent to the House for possible concurrence. Chairman Sytek noted that the amendment related to the process for discharging complaints, and was suggested by the Committee. She also noted that the amendment would change the bill’s effective date to January 1, 2017.

ITEM #6

New/Other Business.

{There was no new or additional business.}

ITEM #7

Scheduling of next meeting.

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

The Committee's meeting adjourned at 2:34 P.M.

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