

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE
October 18, 2019 MEETING
{Approved: November 15, 2019}

The Legislative Ethics Committee (RSA 14-B:2) met on Friday, October 18, 2019, at 11:30 A.M. in Room 104 of the Legislative Office Building.

The following members were present: Representative Edward M. Gordon, Chairman, the Honorable Donna Sytek, Vice Chairman, Senator Martha Fuller Clark, and Representative Janet G. Wall. Senator Sharon M. Carson, Attorney David H. Bradley, and the Honorable David W. Hess were unable to attend. Also present were: Richard M. Lambert, Executive Administrator, and Greg Silverman, Senate Legal Counsel.

The Committee's meeting consisted of the following items:

ITEM #1

Consideration of the draft *Minutes* from the Committee's meeting held on August 20, 2019.

Following review, Representative Wall moved to approve the *Minutes* as presented. Senator Fuller Clark seconded the motion and the Committee voted 4 to 0 to approve the *Minutes*.

ITEM #2

Continuation of the Preliminary Investigation of *Complaint 2019-2*. {Confidential}

Senator Fuller Clark moved to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d) to conduct a Preliminary Investigation of *Complaint 2019-2*. Representative Wall seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea
Senator Fuller Clark	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Representative Wall	Yea
{MOTION ADOPTED}	

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

Senator Fuller Clark moved to exit nonpublic session. Representative Wall seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea
Senator Fuller Clark	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Representative Wall	Yea
{MOTION ADOPTED}	

Chairman Gordon stated: "We are now out of executive session. After consideration of *Complaint 2019-2*, the Committee at this point in time is continuing its preliminary investigation of *Complaint 2019-2*."

ITEM #3

Discussion about the status of *Complaint 2017-3*. {Confidential}

Senator Fuller Clark moved to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d) to deliberate on the status of *Complaint 2017-3*. Representative Wall seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea
Senator Fuller Clark	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Representative Wall	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

Senator Fuller Clark moved to exit nonpublic session. Representative Wall seconded the Committee voted as follows:

Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea
Senator Fuller Clark	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Representative Wall	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated: “The Committee has voted to come out of nonpublic session and notes that during that session it did consider *Complaint 2017-3*. This was a complaint that was previously dismissed and then reconsidered. The Committee has voted to dismiss the complaint again and so notify the parties.”

ITEM #4

Initial Review of *Complaint 2019-5*. {Confidential}

Senator Fuller Clark moved to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d) to conduct an Initial Review of *Complaint 2019-5*. Representative Wall seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea
Senator Fuller Clark	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Representative Wall	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

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

Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea
Senator Fuller Clark	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Representative Wall	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated: “The Committee has voted to come out of nonpublic session. Having discussed *Complaint 2019-5*, a newly-filed complaint to the committee, and the Committee has elected to continue the initial review on that complaint until our next meeting.”

ITEM #5

Discussion about whether a legislator who serves as a member of a board of directors may raise money for the board.

Mr. Lambert said that Senator Carson had asked him to include the item on the agenda. He said that, although Senator Carson wasn’t able to attend, Senate Legal Counsel Greg Silverman would be able to briefly discuss the issue.

Attorney Silverman said the issue relates to the annual conference of the Council of State Governments (CSG) that will be held in Manchester next year and is about the solicitation of funds for that conference. He said that he, House Legal Counsel James Cianci, and potentially others will have more information about the issue for a discussion with the Committee at its next meeting.

Vice Chairman Sytek asked if the question is, “Can the legislators raise money for this conference?”

Attorney Silverman said “yes.”

Senator Fuller Clark said, “Just as we gave permission for staff.”

Vice Chairman Sytek said, “We gave permission for staff, but we specifically limited it to staff... and we said this means legislators can’t.”

Senator Fuller Clark agreed.

Chairman Gordon said, “That’s what’s in the legislation.”

After further brief discussion, Chairman Gordon “We look forward to our discussion at the next meeting.”

ITEM #6

New/Other Business.

Chairman Gordon asked if there was any new or other business.

Mr. Lambert responded that he had an update on the effort to have an electronic version of the Financial Disclosure Form. He said, “Our IT department tells me that they are very confident that the electronic version of the Financial Disclosure Form will be ready for early December.”

Vice Chairman Sytek said that was great and she asked about what happened to the Committee’s recommendation last year to amend the law so that legislators would have to file the form only every 2 years instead of annually.

Senator Fuller Clark recalled why that didn’t happen but offered to submit an LSR for 2020. She asked Mr. Lambert to help her craft the language for a bill to accomplish that.

ITEM #7

Scheduling of the next meeting.

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

The Committee’s meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20 P.M.

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