

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE
April 23, 2021 MEETING
{Approved: June 25, 2021}

The Legislative Ethics Committee (RSA 14-B:2) met on Friday, April 23, 2021, at 1:00 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 were appointed for the 2021-2022 biennium: Representative Edward M. Gordon, Chairman, the Honorable Donna Sytek, Vice Chairman, Senator Sharon M. Carson, Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Representative Janet G. Wall, the Honorable David H. Hess, and Attorney John S. Brandte. All were in attendance. Also participating was 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 August 5, 2020.

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

Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea	
Senator Carson	Yea	
Senator Rosenwald		(not yet participating)
Representative Wall	Yea	
Mr. Hess	Yea	
Attorney Brandte	Yea	
Chairman Gordon	Yea	

{MOTION ADOPTED}

ITEM #2

Initial Review of *Complaint 2021-1, Complaint 2021-2, Complaint 2021-3, and Complaint 2021-4* (Nonpublic).

Senator Carson moved to enter nonpublic session, pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d), to conduct an Initial Review of *Complaint 2021-1, Complaint 2021-2, Complaint 2021-3, and Complaint 2021-4*. Representative Wall seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea	
Senator Carson	Yea	
Senator Rosenwald		(not yet participating)
Representative Wall	Yea	
Mr. Hess	Yea	
Attorney Brandte	Yea	
Chairman Gordon	Yea	

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

{Senator Rosenwald recused from participation in *Complaint 2021-2* and was not present during the Committee’s deliberation on the complaint.}

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

Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea
Senator Carson	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Representative Wall	Yea
Mr. Hess	Yea
Attorney Brandte	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated that the Committee during its nonpublic session voted to dismiss *Complaint 2021-1*, *Complaint 2021-2*, and *Complaint 2021-4* and to continue its Initial Review of *Complaint 2021-3*. He said that the parties would be notified by letter.

ITEM #3

Review of the filing of the 2021 Financial Disclosure Forms. Approval of electronically transmitting the filed forms to the Secretary of State {Pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, IV} and consideration of late filings.

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

- **Senate**
 - All **24** members of the Senate filed a form by the January 15, 2021 deadline.
- **Officers**
 - The Senate Clerk, the House Clerk, and the House Sergeant-at-Arms filed their forms by the January 15, 2021 deadline.
- **House**
 - **391** members of the House, out of the **398** qualified members, filed a form by the January 15, 2021, deadline.
 - **6** additional House members filed forms after the January 15, 2021 filing deadline: Representative Daniel Eaton, Representative Christopher Herbert, Representative James MacKay, Representative Kenneth Vincent, Representative Jeffrey Salloway, and Representative Peter Schmidt
 - **1** member had not yet filed: Representative David Danielson
 - **22** House members who filed using the My GCNH Portal filed a form lacking required initials in Section I.
- **Electronic Filing**
 - **89%** of Senate and House members filed electronically using the My GCNH Portal.

Mr. Lambert explained that some of the late filings were due to members having technical problems with the new electronic filing system. Chairman Gordon reported that Representative Danielson had been ill and unable to attend any House sessions in 2021. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the late filings should be accepted and that there would be no action taken against Representative Danielson.

Mr. Lambert reported that the electronic versions of the forms had been transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State prior to the February 15, 2021, deadline, pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, IV.

The Committee discussed the 22 filings that were incomplete and instructed Mr. Lambert to contact the House members in question and request that they re-file completed forms.

Senator Carson noted that 2021 HB 190, AN ACT relative to financial disclosures by legislators, {passed by the Senate on April 22, 2021} which would require members to file a Financial Disclosure Form once at the beginning of each biennium instead of annually, would also require members to file an amended form if their financial circumstances changed. She asked Mr. Lambert to prepare an amended form that would state that requirement clearly on the form.

ITEM #4

New/Other business.

{There was no new/other business.}

ITEM #5

Scheduling of the next meeting.

The Committee scheduled a meeting on June 4, 2021, at 1:00 P.M.

The Committee's meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 P.M.

{Prepared by Richard M. Lambert, Executive Administrator}