

MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 18, 2016 MEETING
{Approved: March 21, 2016}

The Legislative Ethics Committee (RSA 14-B:2) met on Thursday, February 18, 2016, at 3:00 P.M. in Room 104 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 January 22, 2016.

Following review, Attorney Bradley moved to approve the *Minutes*. Senator Fuller Clark seconded the motion and the Committee voted 6 to 0 to approve the *Minutes*.

ITEM #2

Review of 2016 Financial Disclosure Filings.

The Committee discussed what action to take concerning 3 House members who had not complied with the Committee's letter dated January 26, 2016, which stated that the members must file their 2016 Financial Disclosure Forms within 7 days.

Following discussion, there was agreement that the Committee should initiate complaints against the 3 members pursuant to RSA 14-B:4, I {"The committee shall initiate a complaint on its own motion against any individual the committee determines has not complied with the provisions of RSA 15-A and RSA 15-B."}

Senator Fuller Clark moved to initiate the complaints pursuant to RSA 14-B:4, I. Mr. Graham seconded the motion, and the Committee voted as follows:

Representative Wall	(not yet present)
Attorney Bradley	Yea
Senator Fuller Clark	Yea
Chairman Sytek	Yea
Vice Chairman Carson	Yea
Representative Welch	Yea
Mr. Graham	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

ITEM#3

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 that the bill was going to a committee of conference for consideration of a couple of minor changes. One would change the effective date from January 1, 2017 to December 7, 2016, which will be the first day of the next legislature. The other would continue the current requirement for a unanimous vote of the Committee to discharge a

complaint instead of requiring only a majority vote of the Committee, as a prior amendment to the bill would have allowed.

ITEM #4

New/Other Business.

The Committee discussed an inquiry regarding whether legislators may accept an unsolicited book they received in the mail. Material enclosed with the book indicated that the book's value was \$30, which would exceed the \$25 gift limit. Chairman Sytek noted that the book is available for much less than \$25 from an Internet site. Attorney Bradley cited the exception in RSA 15-B:2, V(b)(5).

After further discussion, the Committee agreed to issue an Interpretive Ruling in response to the inquiry. Representative Welch moved to issue the Interpretive Ruling. Mr. Graham seconded the motion and the Committee voted 7-0 in favor of the motion.

ITEM #5

Initial Review of *Complaint 2016-1* {Confidential}.

Mr. Graham moved to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d) to conduct an Initial Review of *Complaint 2016-1*. Representative Wall seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

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

{Nonpublic Session}

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

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

Chairman Sytek announced that the Committee, in its nonpublic session, voted to dismiss *Complaint #2016-1*.

ITEM #6

Scheduling of next meeting.

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

The Committee's meeting adjourned at 4:40 P.M.

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