

**Senator John L. Valentine** proposes the following substitute bill:

**JOINT RESOLUTION ON ETHICS**

**COMPLAINT PROCEDURES**

2010 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: John L. Valentine**

House Sponsor: David Litvack

7	Cosponsors:	David P. Hinkins	Wayne L. Niederhauser
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15	Jon J. Greiner	Karen W. Morgan	Michael G. Waddoups
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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies the joint legislative rules that govern the receipt and review of an ethics complaint against a legislator.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

- This resolution:
- ▶ establishes an Independent Legislative Ethics Commission;
  - ▶ establishes membership for the commission;
  - ▶ provides qualifications for membership;
  - ▶ provides term periods and replacement procedures for a member of the commission;
  - ▶ provides for the resignation, removal, or recusal of a member of the commission;



- 29           ▶ provides per diem for commission members;
- 30           ▶ provides procedures for calling a meeting of the commission;
- 31           ▶ provides for an independent staff to assist the commission;
- 32           ▶ specifies the grounds upon which an ethics complaint may be filed against a
- 33 legislator;
- 34           ▶ provides certain time and jurisdiction limitations on filing an ethics complaint;
- 35           ▶ establishes a general outline of hearing procedures for reviewing an ethics
- 36 complaint;
- 37           ▶ provides the chair of the commission or an ethics committee with the authority to
- 38 direct proceedings and make rulings;
- 39           ▶ permits a majority of the commission or committee to overrule certain decisions of
- 40 the chair;
- 41           ▶ provides subpoena powers to the commission and committees;
- 42           ▶ provides procedures for issuing a subpoena;
- 43           ▶ defines actions that constitute contempt of the Legislature in relation to procedures
- 44 established under these rules;
- 45           ▶ provides procedures for enforcing findings of contempt of the Legislature;
- 46           ▶ provides general procedures for the examination of a witness;
- 47           ▶ establishes permitted and restricted communications by commission and committee
- 48 members during the period that an ethics complaint is under review;
- 49           ▶ establishes rules that govern the payment of attorney fees and costs;
- 50           ▶ establishes conduct requirements for an attorney appearing before the commission
- 51 or a committee;
- 52           ▶ provides procedures for filing an ethics complaint, including:
  - 53           • who may file a complaint;
  - 54           • restrictions on dates for filing a complaint;
  - 55           • the form of the complaint; and
  - 56           • information required to be included in the complaint;
- 57           ▶ prohibits any person from disclosing the existence or contents of an ethics
- 58 complaint while the commission is reviewing the complaint with certain exceptions;
- 59           ▶ requires a complaint to be filed with the Senate or House Ethics Committee;

- 60 ▶ changes the title of an ethics committee cochair to vice chair;
- 61 ▶ modifies provisions for the recusal of an ethics committee member;
- 62 ▶ requires the chair and vice chair of the committee to review the complaint for
- 63 technical compliance with filing rules;
- 64 ▶ requires a new complaint to be filed if the original complaint fails to meet filing
- 65 requirements;
- 66 ▶ requires the chair and vice chair of an ethics committee to forward a complaint that
- 67 meets the filing requirements to the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission;
- 68 ▶ provides that the commission shall conduct the original review of each ethics
- 69 complaint;
- 70 ▶ provides that commission meetings and hearings shall be closed to the public;
- 71 ▶ permits the commission or an ethics committee to dismiss allegations that have
- 72 previously been heard by the commission or an ethics committee;
- 73 ▶ provides procedures for the commission to schedule a meeting to review an ethics
- 74 complaint;
- 75 ▶ permits the accused legislator, referred to as the respondent, to file a response to the
- 76 complaint;
- 77 ▶ establishes procedures and requirements for filing a response;
- 78 ▶ permits the commission to hold meetings on preliminary matters in relation to a
- 79 complaint before holding the formal review of the complaint;
- 80 ▶ provides that the scope of the committee's authority is limited to review of those
- 81 allegations contained in the complaint;
- 82 ▶ provides procedures for the commission's review of the complaint;
- 83 ▶ permits the commission to consult on certain issues with commission staff outside
- 84 of the presence of parties and their counsel;
- 85 ▶ prohibits third party recording of commission meetings, except under limited
- 86 circumstances;
- 87 ▶ requires that all portions of the commission's meetings be recorded;
- 88 ▶ provides procedures for storing a record of commission meetings;
- 89 ▶ provides that recordings and records of commission meetings are to be classified as
- 90 private records under the Government Records Access and Management Act;

- 91           ▶ provides procedures for the commission's deliberations when reviewing an ethics  
92 complaint;
- 93           ▶ provides standards of evidence and voting procedures to be used by the commission  
94 in determining whether each allegation in a complaint is proved or not proved;
- 95           ▶ requires the commission to dismiss allegations that are not found to be proved;
- 96           ▶ if one or more allegation is found to be proved, requires the commission to:
- 97           • refer the proved allegations to the Senate Ethics Committee or the House Ethics  
98 Committee; and
- 99           • prepare a recommendation, a modified complaint, and a modified response for  
100 public release and submission to the ethics committee for review;
- 101          ▶ provides procedures for the ethics committee's review of allegations submitted by  
102 the commission;
- 103          ▶ provides that committee meetings for review of the allegations submitted by the  
104 commission are subject to the Open and Public Meetings Act;
- 105          ▶ permits the committee to close the meeting for discussion of certain matters;
- 106          ▶ prohibits third party recording of committee meetings, except under limited  
107 circumstances;
- 108          ▶ requires that all portions of the committee's meetings be recorded;
- 109          ▶ provides procedures for storing a record of committee meetings;
- 110          ▶ provides procedures for the committee's deliberations;
- 111          ▶ provides standards of evidence and voting procedures to be used by a committee in  
112 determining whether each allegation referred to the committee by the commission is  
113 proved or not proved;
- 114          ▶ requires a committee to dismiss allegations that are not found to be proved;
- 115          ▶ requires a committee to publicly issue a finding and order on the allegations;
- 116          ▶ if one or more allegation is found to be proved, requires the committee to:
- 117           • vote on a recommended consequence for the violation, including censure,  
118 expulsion, or denial of any of the respondent's rights or privileges; and
- 119           • refer the finding and order to the membership of the House or Senate; and
- 120          ▶ makes technical changes.

121 **Special Clauses:**

122 This resolution provides an immediate effective date.

123 **Legislative Rules Affected:**

124 AMENDS:

125 **JR6-2-101**

126 **JR6-2-102**

127 **JR6-2-201**

128 **JR6-3-101**

129 **JR6-4-101**

130 **JR6-4-102**

131 **JR6-4-201**

132 ENACTS:

133 **JR6-2-103**

134 **JR6-2-104**

135 **JR6-2-301**

136 **JR6-2-302**

137 **JR6-2-303**

138 **JR6-2-304**

139 **JR6-2-305**

140 **JR6-2-306**

141 **JR6-2-307**

142 **JR6-3-102**

143 **JR6-4-103**

144 REPEALS AND REENACTS:

145 **JR6-2-202**

146 **JR6-4-202**

147 **JR6-4-203**

148 **JR6-4-204**

149 **JR6-4-301**

150 **JR6-4-302**

151 **JR6-4-303**

152 **JR6-4-304**

- 153           **JR6-4-305**
- 154           **JR6-4-306**
- 155 REPEALS:
- 156           **JR6-4-205**
- 157           **JR6-4-206**
- 158           **JR6-4-207**
- 159           **JR6-4-307**
- 160           **JR6-4-308**
- 161           **JR6-4-309**
- 162           **JR6-4-310**

164 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

165           Section 1. **JR6-2-101** is amended to read:

166                           **CHAPTER 2. HOUSE AND SENATE ETHICS COMMITTEES**  
 167                           **AND INDEPENDENT LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMISSION**

168                                   **Part 1. Membership, Meetings, and Staff**

169           **JR6-2-101. Ethics Committees -- Membership.**

170           (1) There is established a Senate Ethics Committee and a House Ethics Committee.

171           (2) The Senate Ethics Committee shall be composed of:

172           (a) the chair and three additional [~~members~~] Senators appointed by the President of the  
173 Senate; and

174           (b) the [~~cochair~~] vice chair and three additional [~~members~~] Senators appointed by the  
175 Senate minority leader.

176           (3) The House Ethics Committee shall be composed of:

177           (a) the chair and three additional [~~members~~] Representatives appointed by the Speaker  
178 of the House of Representatives; and

179           (b) the [~~cochair~~] vice chair and three additional [~~members~~] Representatives appointed  
180 by the House minority leader.

181           (4) [~~Members of the committees~~] A committee member shall serve a two-year [~~terms~~]  
182 term.

183           (5) (a) If a [~~complaint is filed against any member of the respective ethics committees;~~

184 ~~the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House shall appoint another]~~ member of an  
 185 ethics committee is accused of wrongdoing in a complaint to be reviewed by the committee, or  
 186 if a member of an ethics committee determines that he or she has a conflict of interest in  
 187 relation to a complaint to be reviewed by the ethics committee, a member of the Senate or  
 188 House [to] shall be appointed to temporarily serve in that member's place while the complaint  
 189 is under review[;] as follows:

190 (i) except as provided in Subsection (5)(a)(ii), the member shall be appointed by the  
 191 person who appointed the member who is being temporarily replaced, consistent with  
 192 Subsection (2), for a member of the Senate Ethics Committee, or Subsection (3), for the House  
 193 Ethics Committee; or

194 (ii) if the person designated to make the appointment under Subsection (5)(a)(i) is  
 195 accused of wrongdoing in the complaint or determines that he or she has a conflict of interest in  
 196 relation to the complaint, the appointment shall be made by:

197 (A) the Senate majority leader, if the person designated is the President of the Senate;

198 (B) the Senate minority whip, if the person designated is the Senate minority leader;

199 (C) the House majority leader, if the person designated is the Speaker of the House; or

200 (D) the House minority whip, if the person designated is the House minority leader.

201 (b) The temporary committee member's term ends when the committee has concluded  
 202 its review of the complaint.

203 Section 2. **JR6-2-102** is amended to read:

204 **JR6-2-102. Ethics Committee -- Meetings and Staff.**

205 (1) The Senate and House Ethics Committees shall operate as both standing and  
 206 interim committees.

207 (2) The committees shall meet as necessary, either as called at:

208 (a) the discretion of the chair; or

209 (b) by a majority vote of the committee.

210 (3) A majority of the committee is a quorum.

211 (4) The staff of ~~[the committees]~~ each committee consists of:

212 (a) the director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel;

213 (b) the Legislative General Counsel; and

214 (c) any other ~~[members of the]~~ staff ~~[of that office]~~ designated by the director or the

215 Legislative General Counsel.

216 Section 3. **JR6-2-103** is enacted to read:

217 **JR6-2-103. Independent Legislative Ethics Commission -- Membership.**

218 (1) There is established an Independent Legislative Ethics Commission.

219 (2) The commission is composed of five persons, each of whom is registered to vote in  
220 this state, appointed as follows:

221 (a) two members, who have served, but no longer serve, as judges of a court of record  
222 in this state, each of whom shall be nominated by the mutual consent of the President of the  
223 Senate and the Speaker of the House, and appointed by a majority vote of the President of the  
224 Senate, Speaker of the House, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader;

225 (b) one member, who has served, but no longer serves, as a judge of a court of record  
226 in this state, nominated by the mutual consent of the Senate minority leader and the House  
227 minority leader, and appointed by a majority vote of the President of the Senate, Speaker of the  
228 House, Senate minority leader, and House minority leader;

229 (c) one member, who has served as a member of the Legislature in this state no more  
230 recently than four years before the date of appointment, appointed by the mutual consent of the  
231 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

232 (d) one member, who has served as a member of the Legislature in this state no more  
233 recently than four years before the date of appointment, appointed by the mutual consent of the  
234 Senate minority leader and House minority leader.

235 (3) A member of the commission may not, during the member's term of office on the  
236 commission, act or serve as:

237 (a) an officeholder as defined in Section 20A-11-101;

238 (b) an agency head as defined in Section 67-16-3;

239 (c) a lobbyist as defined in Section 36-11-102; or

240 (d) a principal as defined in Section 36-11-102.

241 (4) (a) (i) Except as provided in Subsection (4)(a)(ii), each member of the commission  
242 shall serve a four-year term.

243 (ii) When appointing the initial members upon formation of the commission, one  
244 member nominated by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of  
245 Representatives and one member nominated by the Senate minority leader and House minority

246 leader shall be appointed to a two-year term so that approximately half of the commission is  
247 appointed every two years.

248 (b) (i) When a vacancy occurs in the commission's membership for any reason, a  
249 replacement member shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the vacating member using  
250 the procedures and requirements of Subsection (2).

251 (ii) For the purposes of this rule, an appointment for an unexpired term of a vacating  
252 member is not considered a full term.

253 (c) A member may not be appointed to serve for more than two full terms, whether  
254 those terms are two or four years.

255 (d) A member of the commission may resign from the commission by giving one  
256 month's written notice of the resignation to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House,  
257 Senate minority leader, and House minority leader.

258 (e) The chair of the Legislative Management Committee shall remove a member from  
259 the commission if the member:

260 (i) is convicted of, or enters a plea of guilty to, a crime involving moral turpitude;

261 (ii) enters a plea of no contest or a plea in abeyance to a crime involving moral  
262 turpitude; or

263 (iii) fails to meet the qualifications of office as provided in this rule.

264 (f) If a commission member is accused of wrongdoing in a complaint, or if a  
265 commission member determines that he or she has a conflict of interest in relation to a  
266 complaint, a temporary commission member shall be appointed to serve in that member's place  
267 for the purposes of reviewing that complaint using the procedures and requirements of  
268 Subsection (2).

269 (5) (a) A member of the commission may not receive compensation or benefits for the  
270 member's service, but may receive per diem and expenses incurred in the performance of the  
271 member's official duties at the rates established by the Division of Finance under Sections  
272 63A-3-106 and 63A-3-107.

273 (b) A member may decline to receive per diem and expenses for the member's service.

274 (6) (a) The commission members shall convene a meeting annually each January and  
275 elect, by a majority vote, a commission chair from among the commission members.

276 (b) A person may not serve as chair for more than two consecutive years.

277 (7) A commission member may not receive compensation or benefits for the member's  
278 services, but may receive per diem and travel expenses in accordance with:

279 (a) Section 63A-3-106;

280 (b) Section 63A-3-107; and

281 (c) rules made by the Division of Finance pursuant to Sections 63A-3-106 and  
282 63A-3-107.

283 Section 4. **JR6-2-104** is enacted to read:

284 **JR6-2-104. Independent Legislative Ethics Commission -- Meetings -- Staff.**

285 (1) The Independent Legislative Ethics Commission shall meet for the purpose of  
286 reviewing an ethics complaint when:

287 (a) except otherwise expressly provided in this title, called to meet at the discretion of  
288 the chair; or

289 (b) called to meet by a majority vote of the commission.

290 (2) A majority of the commission is a quorum.

291 (3) (a) The Senate and the House of Representatives shall employ staff for the  
292 commission at a level that is reasonable to assist the commission in performing its duties as  
293 established in this chapter.

294 (b) Staff for the commission shall work only for the commission and may not perform  
295 services for the Senate, House of Representatives, or other legislative offices.

296 Section 5. **JR6-2-201** is amended to read:

297 **Part 2. General Powers and Procedures**

298 **JR6-2-201. Authority to Review Complaints -- Grounds for Complaint --**

299 **Limitations on Filings.**

300 [The] (1) Subject to the requirements of this chapter, the Senate Ethics Committee  
301 [and], the House Ethics Committee [shall review and adjudicate any charges brought against a  
302 member of the Senate or House for acts that violate: (1) the Code of Official Conduct; or (2)  
303 any law, rule, regulation, or other standard of conduct applicable to the conduct of a member of  
304 the Senate or House in the performance of legislative responsibilities, if the conduct would  
305 reflect discredit upon the Senate or House as a whole.], and the Independent Legislative Ethics  
306 Commission are authorized to review an ethics complaint against a legislator if the complaint  
307 alleges:

308 (a) a violation of the Code of Official Conduct as provided in JR6-1-102;  
309 (b) a conviction of, or a plea of guilty to, a crime involving moral turpitude; or  
310 (c) a plea of no contest or a plea in abeyance to a crime involving moral turpitude.  
311 (2) (a) For an alleged violation under Subsection (1)(a), the complaint must be filed  
312 within two years of the date that the action or omission that forms the basis of the alleged  
313 violation occurred or within two years of the date that the action or omission would have been  
314 discovered by a reasonable person.

315 (b) For an alleged violation under Subsection (1)(b) or (1)(c), the complaint shall be  
316 filed within two years of the date that the plea or conviction that forms the basis of the  
317 allegation was entered.

318 (3) (a) A complaint may not contain an allegation that is based on facts and  
319 circumstances against a legislator that have been previously reviewed by the commission or an  
320 ethics committee.

321 (b) If a complaint contains an allegation that is based on facts and circumstances  
322 against a legislator that have been previously reviewed by the commission or a committee, the  
323 commission or ethics committee may summarily dismiss that allegation as provided in this  
324 title.

325 Section 6. **JR6-2-202** is repealed and reenacted to read:

326 **JR6-2-202. General Powers -- Jurisdiction.**

327 (1) The commission and the committees have jurisdiction only over an individual who  
328 is currently serving in the Legislature.

329 (2) The commission and the committees shall dismiss an ethics complaint if the  
330 respondent legislator resigns from the Legislature.

331 Section 7. **JR6-2-301** is enacted to read:

332 **Part 3. General Provisions Governing Hearings on Ethics Complaint**

333 **JR6-2-301. General Procedures for Conducting a Hearing on an Ethics**

334 **Complaint.**

335 (1) In conducting a hearing on a complaint, the Independent Legislative Ethics  
336 Commission or the Senate or House Ethics Committee shall comply with the following process  
337 in the order specified:

338 (a) introduction and instructions for procedure and process, at the discretion of the

339 chair;

340 (b) complainants' opening argument, to be presented by a complainant or complainants'

341 counsel;

342 (c) complainants' presentation of evidence and witnesses in support of allegations in

343 the complaint;

344 (d) consideration of motions to dismiss the complaint or motions for a directed verdict,

345 as applicable;

346 (e) respondent's opening argument, to be presented by the respondent or respondent's

347 counsel;

348 (f) respondent's presentation of evidence and witnesses refuting allegations in the

349 complaint;

350 (g) presentation of rebuttal evidence and witnesses by the complainants, at the

351 discretion of the chair;

352 (h) presentation of rebuttal evidence and witnesses by the respondent, at the discretion

353 of the chair;

354 (i) complainants' closing argument, to be presented by a complainant or complainants'

355 counsel;

356 (j) respondent's closing argument, to be presented by the respondent or respondent's

357 counsel;

358 (k) deliberations by the commission or committee; and

359 (l) adoption of the commission's or committee's findings.

360 (2) The commission or an ethics committee may, in extraordinary circumstances, vary

361 the order contained in Subsection (1) by majority vote and by providing notice to the parties.

362 (3) The chair may schedule the examination of a witness or evidence subpoenaed at the

363 request of the chair or the committee under JR6-2-303 at the chair's discretion.

364 Section 8. **JR6-2-302** is enacted to read:

365 **JR6-2-302. Chair as Presiding Judge.**

366 (1) Except as expressly provided otherwise in this title, the chair of the Independent

367 Legislative Ethics Commission and the chair of the Senate or House Ethics Committee is

368 vested with the power to direct the commission or committee during meetings authorized by

369 this title.

370 (2) Unless expressly prohibited from doing so under this title, the commission or  
371 committee may overrule a decision of the chair by using the following procedure:

372 (a) If a member objects to a decision of the chair, that member may appeal the decision  
373 by stating:

374 (i) "I appeal the decision of the chair."; and

375 (ii) the basis for the objection.

376 (b) This motion is nondebatable.

377 (c) The chair shall direct a roll call vote to determine if the commission or committee  
378 supports the decision of the chair.

379 (d) A majority vote of the commission or committee is necessary to overrule the  
380 decision of the chair.

381 (3) The chair may set time limitations on any part of a meeting or hearing authorized  
382 by this title.

383 Section 9. **JR6-2-303** is enacted to read:

384 **JR6-2-303. Subpoena Powers.**

385 (1) For all proceedings authorized by this title, the Independent Legislative Ethics  
386 Commission or the Senate or House Ethics Committee may issue a subpoena to:

387 (a) require the attendance of a witness;

388 (b) direct the production of evidence; or

389 (c) require both the attendance of a witness and the production of evidence.

390 (2) The commission shall issue a subpoena under this rule:

391 (a) as required under JR6-2-305;

392 (b) at the direction of the commission chair, if the chair determines that the testimony  
393 or evidence is relevant to the review of a complaint under Chapter 4, Part 2, Review of Ethics

394 Complaint by the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission; or

395 (c) upon a vote of a majority of the commission members.

396 (3) An ethics committee shall issue a subpoena under this rule:

397 (a) as required under JR6-2-305;

398 (b) at the direction of the committee chair or vice chair, if the chair or vice chair  
399 determines that the testimony or evidence is relevant to review of a complaint under Chapter 4,

400 Part 3, Review of Ethics Complaint by Ethics Committee; or

401 (c) upon a vote of a majority of the committee members.

402 (4) The Director of the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel shall issue  
403 a subpoena on behalf of an ethics committee when requested to do so by one of the persons or  
404 entities authorized to do so under Subsection (3).

405 Section 10. **JR6-2-304** is enacted to read:

406 **JR6-2-304. Contempt of the Legislature.**

407 (1) (a) The following actions constitute contempt of the Legislature in relation to  
408 actions and proceedings under this title:

409 (i) disobedience to a direction of the commission chair;

410 (ii) disobedience to a direction of an ethics committee chair;

411 (iii) failure to answer a question during a hearing when directed to do so by:

412 (A) the commission chair, unless the direction is overridden by the commission under  
413 JR6-2-302;

414 (B) an ethics committee chair, unless the direction is overridden by the committee  
415 under JR6-2-302; or

416 (C) a majority of the commission or committee; or

417 (iv) failure to comply with a subpoena or other order issued under authority of this  
418 title;

419 (v) violation of privacy provisions established by JR6-3-102;

420 (vi) violation of the communication provisions established by JR6-2-306;

421 (vii) violation of a request to comply with a provision of this title by a chair or a  
422 majority of the members of the commission or committee; or

423 (viii) any other ground that is specified in statute or recognized at common law.

424 (b) Because the purpose of the Fifth Amendment privilege not to incriminate oneself is  
425 to prevent prosecution for criminal action, it is improper for a witness to invoke the Fifth  
426 Amendment privilege if the witness cannot be prosecuted for the crime to which the witness's  
427 testimony relates.

428 (2) (a) The following persons may authorize an enforcement action against a person in  
429 contempt of the Legislature under the provisions of this title:

430 (i) the commission chair, subject to the provisions of JR6-2-302;

431 (ii) members of the commission, by means of a majority vote;

432 (iii) an ethics committee chair, subject to the provisions of JR6-2-302; or  
433 (iv) members of an ethics committee, by means of a majority vote.  
434 (b) In initiating and pursuing an action against an individual for contempt of the  
435 Legislature, the plaintiff shall comply with the procedures and requirements of Section  
436 36-14-5.

437 Section 11. **JR6-2-305** is enacted to read:

438 **JR6-2-305. Testimony and Examination of Witnesses -- Oath -- Procedure --**  
439 **Contempt.**

440 (1) (a) The chair shall ensure that each witness listed in the complaint and response is  
441 subpoenaed for appearance at the hearing unless:

442 (i) the witness is unable to be properly identified or located; or

443 (ii) service is otherwise determined to be impracticable.

444 (b) The chair shall determine the scheduling and order of witnesses and presentation of  
445 evidence.

446 (c) The commission or committee may, by majority vote:

447 (i) overrule the chair's decision not to subpoena a witness under Subsection (1)(a);

448 (ii) modify the chair's determination on the scheduling and order of witnesses under  
449 Subsection (1)(b);

450 (iii) decline to hear or call a witness that has been requested by the complainant or  
451 respondent;

452 (iv) decline to review or consider evidence submitted in relation to an ethics complaint;  
453 or

454 (v) request and subpoena witnesses or evidence according to the procedures of  
455 JR6-2-303.

456 (2) (a) Each witness shall testify under oath.

457 (b) The chair or the chair's designee shall administer the oath to each witness.

458 (3) After the oath has been administered to the witness, the chair shall direct testimony  
459 as follows:

460 (a) allow the party that has called the witness, or that party's counsel, to question the  
461 witness;

462 (b) allow the opposing party, or that party's counsel, to cross-examine the witness;

463 (c) allow additional questioning by a party or a party's counsel as appropriate;  
464 (d) give commission or committee members the opportunity to question the witness;

465 and

466 (e) as appropriate, allow further examination of the witness by the commission or  
467 committee, or the parties or their counsel.

468 (4) (a) If the witness, a party, or a party's counsel objects to a question, the chair shall:

469 (i) direct the witness to answer; or

470 (ii) rule that the witness is not required to answer the question.

471 (b) If the witness declines to answer a question after the chair or a majority of the  
472 commission or committee determines that the witness is required to answer the question, the  
473 witness may be held in contempt as provided in JR6-2-304.

474 (5) (a) The chair or a majority of the members of the commission or committee may  
475 direct a witness to furnish any relevant evidence for consideration if the witness has brought  
476 the material voluntarily or has been required to bring it by subpoena.

477 (b) If the witness declines to provide evidence in response to a subpoena, the witness  
478 may be held in contempt as provided in JR6-2-304.

479 Section 12. **JR6-2-306** is enacted to read:

480 **JR6-2-306. Communications of Commission and Committee Members.**

481 (1) As used in this section, "third party" means:

482 (a) for a member of the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission, a person who is  
483 not a member of the commission or staff to the commission; or

484 (b) for a member of an ethics committee, a person who is not a member of the  
485 committee or staff to the committee.

486 (2) While a complaint is under review by the commission or an ethics committee, a  
487 member of that commission or committee may not initiate or consider any communications  
488 concerning the complaint with a third party unless:

489 (a) the communication is expressly permitted under the procedures established by this  
490 title; or

491 (b) the communication is made by the third party, in writing, simultaneously to:

492 (i) all members of the commission or committee; and

493 (ii) a staff member of the commission or committee.

494 (3) (a) While the commission is reviewing a complaint under this title, a commission  
495 member may communicate outside of the meetings, hearing, or deliberations with another  
496 member of, or staff to, the commission, only if the member's communication does not  
497 materially compromise the member's responsibility to independently review and make  
498 decisions in relation to the complaint.

499 (b) While a committee is reviewing a complaint under this title, a committee member  
500 may communicate outside of the meeting, hearing, or deliberations with another member of, or  
501 staff to, the committee, only if the member's communication does not materially compromise  
502 the member's responsibility to independently review and make decisions in relation to the  
503 complaint.

504 (4) While a complaint is under review by an ethics committee, a member of the  
505 commission may not comment publicly or privately about the commission's decision,  
506 reasoning, or other matters relating to the ethics complaint, but may provide or refer a  
507 questioner to the commission's written recommendation.

508 Section 13. **JR6-2-307** is enacted to read:

509 **JR6-2-307. Attorney Fees and Costs.**

510 (1) A person filing a complaint under this title:

511 (a) may, but is not required to, retain legal representation during the complaint review  
512 process; and

513 (b) is responsible for payment of complainants' attorney fees and costs incurred.

514 (2) (a) A legislator against whom a complaint is filed under this title:

515 (i) may, but is not required to, retain legal representation during the complaint review  
516 process; and

517 (ii) is responsible for that legislator's own attorney fees and costs involved, except as  
518 provided in Subsection (2)(b).

519 (b) The Senate, for a Senator, or the House of Representatives, for a Representative,  
520 shall pay the reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred by a legislator against whom a  
521 complaint is filed under this title if:

522 (i) the commission declines to recommend that any allegation in the complaint be  
523 reviewed by an ethics committee; or

524 (ii) an ethics committee determines that none of the allegations in the complaint that

525 were recommended for review by the commission have been proved.

526 (3) (a) An attorney participating in a hearing before the commission or an ethics  
527 committee shall comply with:

528 (i) the Rules of Professional Conduct established by the Utah Supreme Court;

529 (ii) the procedures and requirements of this title; and

530 (iii) the directions of the chairs, commission, and ethics committees.

531 (b) Violations of Subsection (3)(a) may constitute:

532 (i) contempt of the Legislature under JR6-2-304; or

533 (ii) a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct subject to enforcement by the Utah  
534 State Bar.

535 Section 14. **JR6-3-101** is amended to read:

536 **CHAPTER 3. FILING A COMPLAINT ALLEGING A**  
537 **VIOLATION OF LEGISLATIVE ETHICS**

538 **JR6-3-101. Ethics Complaints -- Filing -- Form.**

539 ~~[(1) Any legislator who wishes to file an ethics complaint against another legislator~~  
540 ~~shall file a written complaint.]~~

541 (1) (a) The following individuals, who shall be referred to as the complainants, may  
542 file a complaint against an individual legislator if the complaint meets the requirements of  
543 JR6-2-201 and Subsection (1)(b):

544 (i) two or more members of the House of Representatives, for a complaint against a  
545 Representative, provided that the complaint contains evidence or sworn testimony that:

546 (A) sets forth facts and circumstances supporting the alleged violation; and

547 (B) is evidence or sworn testimony of the type that would generally be admissible  
548 under the Utah Rules of Evidence;

549 (ii) two or more members of the Senate, for a complaint against a Senator, provided  
550 that the complaint contains evidence or sworn testimony that:

551 (A) sets forth facts and circumstances supporting the alleged violation; and

552 (B) is evidence or sworn testimony of the type that would generally be admissible  
553 under the Utah Rules of Evidence; or

554 (iii) two or more registered voters currently residing within Utah, if, for each alleged  
555 violation pled in the complaint, at least one of those registered voters has actual knowledge of

556 the facts and circumstances supporting the alleged violation.

557 (b) A complainant may file a complaint only against an individual who is serving as a  
558 member of the Legislature on the date that the complaint is filed.

559 (2) (a) Complainants shall file a complaint with:

560 [(a)] (i) [~~with the President of the Senate and~~] the chair and vice chair of the Senate  
561 Ethics Committee, if the complaint is against a [Senator] member of the Senate; or

562 [(b)] (ii) [~~with the Speaker of the House and~~] the chair and vice chair of the House  
563 Ethics Committee, if the complaint is against a [Representative] member of the House of  
564 Representatives.

565 (b) An individual may not file a complaint during the 60 calendar days immediately  
566 preceding:

567 (i) a regular primary election, if the accused legislator is a candidate in the primary  
568 election; or

569 (ii) a regular general election in which the accused legislator is a candidate, unless the  
570 accused legislator is unopposed in the election.

571 [(2)(a)] (3) [~~The legislator filing the complaint shall ensure that it contains] The~~  
572 complainants shall ensure that each complaint filed under this rule is in writing and contains  
573 the following information:

574 [(i)] (a) the name and position or title of the [person] legislator alleged to be in  
575 violation, who [is] shall be referred to as the respondent;

576 [(ii)] (b) the name [and], address, and telephone number of [at least three Senators, if  
577 the respondent is a Senate member, or at least three Representatives, if the respondent is a  
578 House member, who are] each individual who is filing the complaint[, who are the complainant  
579 or complainants];

580 [(iii)] (c) [~~the nature of the] a description of each alleged violation[;], including for~~  
581 each alleged violation:

582 [(iv) subject to Subsection (1)(b), any facts alleged to support the complaint; and]

583 [(v) all documents that support the complaint as an attachment to it.]

584 (i) a reference to:

585 (A) the section of the code of conduct alleged to have been violated; or

586 (B) the criminal provision violated and the docket number of the case involving the

587 legislator;  
588 (ii) the name of the complainant or complainants who have actual knowledge of the  
589 facts and circumstances supporting each allegation;  
590 (iii) the facts and circumstances supporting each allegation, which shall be provided  
591 by:  
592 (A) copies of official records or documentary evidence; or  
593 (B) one or more affidavits, each of which shall comply with the following format:  
594 (I) the name, address, and telephone number of the signer;  
595 (II) a statement that the signer has actual knowledge of the facts and circumstances  
596 alleged in the affidavit;  
597 (III) the facts and circumstances testified to by the signer;  
598 (IV) a statement that the affidavit is believed to be true and correct and that false  
599 statements are subject to penalties of perjury; and  
600 (V) the signature of the signer;  
601 (d) a list of the witnesses that the complainants wish to have called, including for each  
602 witness:  
603 (i) the name, address, and, if available, one or more telephone numbers of the witness;  
604 (ii) a brief summary of the testimony to be provided by the witness; and  
605 (iii) a specific description of any documents or evidence complainants desire the  
606 witness to produce;  
607 (e) a statement that each complainant:  
608 (i) has reviewed the allegations contained in the complaint and the sworn statements  
609 and documents attached to the complaint;  
610 (ii) believes that the complaint is submitted in good faith and not for any improper  
611 purpose such as for the purpose of harassing the respondent, causing unwarranted harm to the  
612 respondent's reputation, or causing unnecessary expenditure of public funds; and  
613 (iii) believes the allegations contained in the complaint to be true and accurate; and  
614 (f) the signature of each complainant.  
615 ~~[(b) If any of the facts supporting the complaint are based upon the information and~~  
616 ~~belief of the complainants, the complaint shall state that the facts are presented "upon~~  
617 ~~information and belief" and give the basis for that information and belief.]~~

618 Section 15. **JR6-3-102** is enacted to read:

619 **JR6-3-102. Privacy of Ethics Complaints -- Contempt -- Enforcement of Finding**  
620 **of Contempt -- Dismissal.**

621 (1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b) or (c), a person, including the  
622 complainants, the respondent, commission members, a committee chair or vice chair, or staff to  
623 the commission or a committee, may not disclose the existence of a complaint, a response, nor  
624 any information concerning any alleged violation that is the subject of a complaint.

625 (b) The restrictions in Subsection (1)(a) do not apply to:

626 (i) a complaint or response that is publicly released by the commission and referred to  
627 an ethics committee for review under the procedures and requirements of JR6-4-204, and the  
628 allegations contained in the publicly released complaint or response; or

629 (ii) the respondent's voluntary disclosure of a finding by the commission that no  
630 allegations in a complaint were proved, after that finding is issued by the commission under the  
631 procedures and requirements of JR6-4-204.

632 (c) Nothing in this rule prevents a person from disclosing facts or allegations about  
633 potential criminal violations to law enforcement authorities.

634 (2) A person who violates the provisions of Subsection (1)(a) is in contempt of the  
635 Legislature and proceedings may be initiated to enforce the finding of contempt using the  
636 procedures provided in JR6-2-304 and Section 36-14-5.

637 (3) If the existence of an ethics complaint is publicly disclosed during the period that  
638 the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission is reviewing the complaint, the complaint shall  
639 be summarily dismissed.

640 Section 16. **JR6-4-101** is amended to read:

641 **CHAPTER 4. PROCEDURES FOR REVIEWING ETHICS COMPLAINTS**

642 **Part 1. Initial Review of Ethics Complaint and Response**

643 **JR6-4-101. Review of Ethics Complaint for Compliance with Form Requirements**  
644 **-- Independent Requirements for Complaint -- Notice of Complaint to Commission**  
645 **Members.**

646 (1) [~~a~~] Within five business days after receipt of [~~the~~] a complaint, the staff of the  
647 [~~committee~~] ethics committee receiving the complaint, in consultation with the committee  
648 chair and [~~cochair~~] vice chair, shall examine [~~each~~] the complaint to determine if it is in

649 compliance with JR6-2-201 and JR6-3-101.

650 ~~[(b)-(i)]~~ (2) (a) If the chair and ~~[cochair determine]~~ vice chair determine that the  
651 complaint does not comply with JR6-2-201 or JR6-3-101, the chair shall return the complaint  
652 to the ~~[complainants]~~ first complainant named on the complaint with:

653 (i) a statement detailing the reason for the non-compliance; and

654 (ii) a copy of the applicable legislative rules ~~[on ethics]~~.

655 ~~[(ii) The]~~ (b) If a complaint is returned for non-compliance with the requirements of  
656 this title, the complainants may ~~[resubmit the]~~ file another complaint if the new complaint  
657 independently meets the requirements of JR6-3-101, including any requirements for timely  
658 filing.

659 ~~[(e)]~~ (3) If the chair and ~~[cochair]~~ vice chair determine that the complaint complies  
660 with ~~[this title]~~ the requirements of this rule, the chair shall:

661 ~~[(i)]~~ (a) accept the complaint;

662 ~~[(ii)]~~ (b) notify ~~[each member]~~ the chair and the staff of the ~~[ethics committee]~~  
663 Independent Legislative Ethics Commission that the complaint has been filed and accepted;  
664 and

665 ~~[(iii)]~~ (c) ~~[provide each member of the ethics committee with a copy of]~~ promptly  
666 forward the complaint[-] to:

667 ~~[(2) No committee member or staff may disclose publically any information received~~  
668 ~~by the committee concerning any alleged violation until the member of the Senate or House~~  
669 ~~charged in the violation has received the Summary of the Preliminary Inquiry required by~~  
670 ~~JR6-4-206.]~~

671 (i) the commission; and

672 (ii) the legislator who is the subject of the ethics complaint via personal delivery or a  
673 delivery method that provides verification of receipt, together with a copy of the applicable  
674 legislative rules and notice of the legislator's deadline for filing a response to the complaint.

675 Section 17. **JR6-4-102** is amended to read:

676 **JR6-4-102. Meeting of the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission for**  
677 **Review of Complaint -- Procedures.**

678 ~~[(1) Within 30 days after the complaint is accepted, the chair and cochair shall:]~~

679 By no later than 10 calendar days after the day on which the complaint is accepted

680 under JR6-4-101, the commission chair shall:

681 ~~[(a)] (1) schedule [an ethics committee] a commission meeting[; and] on a date no later~~  
 682 ~~than 60 calendar days after the date on which the committee chair and vice chair accept the~~  
 683 ~~complaint;~~

684 ~~[(b)] (2) place the [ethics] complaint on the agenda for consideration at that meeting~~  
 685 ~~[with the recommendation that:];~~

686 ~~[(i) the complaint be considered; or]~~

687 ~~[(ii) the complaint be dismissed because it fails to allege facts that constitute a~~  
 688 ~~violation.];~~

689 ~~[(2) (a) At the ethics committee meeting, the committee shall determine:]~~

690 ~~[(i) whether or not the alleged violation in the complaint is within the jurisdiction of~~  
 691 ~~the committee; and]~~

692 ~~[(ii) whether or not the complaint merits further inquiry.];~~

693 ~~[(b) The chair shall notify the complainants and respondent, in writing, of the~~  
 694 ~~determination made by the committee.];~~

695 ~~[(3) If the committee determines that the complaint merits further inquiry, the~~  
 696 ~~committee meeting shall become a preliminary inquiry to determine whether the alleged~~  
 697 ~~violation occurred.];~~

698 (3) provide notice of the date, time, and location of the meeting to:

699 (a) the members of the commission;

700 (b) the first complainant named in the complaint; and

701 (c) the respondent; and

702 (4) provide a copy of the complaint to each member of the commission.

703 Section 18. **JR6-4-103** is enacted to read:

704 **JR6-4-103. Response to Ethics Complaint -- Filing -- Form.**

705 (1) The legislator that is the subject of the complaint may file a response to the  
 706 complaint no later than 30 days after the day on which the legislator receives delivery of the  
 707 complaint.

708 (2) The respondent shall file the response with the commission and shall ensure that  
 709 the response is in writing and contains the following information:

710 (a) the name, address, and telephone number of the respondent;

711 (b) for each alleged violation in the complaint:  
712 (i) each affirmative defense asserted in response to the allegation, including a general  
713 description of each affirmative defense and the facts and circumstances supporting the defense  
714 to be provided by one or more affidavits, each of which shall comply with the following  
715 format:  
716 (A) the name, address, and telephone number of the signer;  
717 (B) a statement that the signer has actual knowledge of the facts and circumstances  
718 alleged in the affidavit;  
719 (C) the facts and circumstances testified to by the signer;  
720 (D) a statement that the affidavit is believed to be true and correct and that false  
721 statements are subject to penalties of perjury; and  
722 (E) the signature of the signer;  
723 (ii) the facts and circumstances refuting the allegation, which shall be provided by:  
724 (A) copies of official records or documentary evidence; or  
725 (B) one or more affidavits, each of which shall comply with the following format:  
726 (I) the name, address, and telephone number of the signer;  
727 (II) a statement that the signer has actual knowledge of the facts and circumstances  
728 alleged in the affidavit;  
729 (III) the facts and circumstances testified to by the signer;  
730 (IV) a statement that the affidavit is believed to be true and correct and that false  
731 statements are subject to penalties of perjury; and  
732 (V) the signature of the signer;  
733 (c) a list of the witnesses that the respondent wishes to have called, including for each  
734 witness:  
735 (i) the name, address, and, if available, telephone number of the witness;  
736 (ii) a brief summary of the testimony to be provided by the witness; and  
737 (iii) a specific description of any documents or evidence the respondent desires the  
738 witness to produce;  
739 (d) a statement that the respondent:  
740 (i) has reviewed the allegations contained in the complaint and the sworn statements  
741 and documents attached to the response; and

742 (ii) believes the contents of the response to be true and accurate; and  
 743 (e) the signature of the respondent.  
 744 (3) Promptly after receiving the response, the commission shall provide copies of the  
 745 response to:

746 (a) each member of the commission; and  
 747 (b) the first named complainant on the complaint.

748 Section 19. **JR6-4-201** is amended to read:

749 **Part 2. Review of Ethics Complaint by the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission**

750 **JR6-4-201. Review of Ethics Complaint by the Independent Legislative Ethics**  
 751 **Commission.**

752 (1) The scope of the [~~preliminary inquiry~~] Independent Legislative Ethics  
 753 Commission's review is limited to the alleged violations stated in the complaint.

754 [~~(2) (a) Only relevant or material evidence is admissible in the preliminary inquiry.]~~

755 (2) (a) Before holding the meeting for review of the complaint, the commission chair  
 756 may schedule a separate meeting of the commission for the purposes of:

757 (i) hearing motions or arguments from the parties, including hearing motions or  
 758 arguments relating to dismissal of a complaint, admission of evidence, or procedures;

759 (ii) holding a vote of the commission, with or without the attendance of the parties, on  
 760 procedural or commission business matters relating to a complaint; or

761 (iii) reviewing a complaint, with or without the attendance of the parties, to determine  
 762 if the complaint should be dismissed in whole or in part, by means of a majority vote of the  
 763 commission, because it pleads facts or circumstances against a legislator that have already been  
 764 reviewed by the commission or an ethics committee as provided in JR6-2-201.

765 (b) Notwithstanding JR6-4-102, the commission may, by a majority vote, change the  
 766 date of the meeting for review of the complaint in order to accommodate:

767 (i) a meeting authorized under Subsection (2)(a); or

768 (ii) necessary scheduling requirements.

769 (3) (a) The commission shall comply with the Utah Rules of Evidence except where  
 770 the commission determines, by majority vote, that a rule is not compatible with the  
 771 requirements of this title.

772 (b) The [~~chair's determination of~~] chair shall make rulings on admissibility [~~is final and~~

773 may only be overruled by a majority vote of the committee] of evidence consistent with the  
774 provisions of JR6-2-302.

775 [~~(3) At the beginning of the preliminary inquiry, in order to expedite the committee's~~  
776 ~~investigation and to facilitate a rapid resolution of the matter, the committee cochairs and the~~  
777 ~~respondent may agree in writing that the procedural requirements of Part 3, Disciplinary~~  
778 ~~Hearing, are waived.]~~

779 (4) (a) [~~The preliminary inquiry is~~] All meetings and hearings authorized in this part  
780 are closed to the public.

781 (b) The [~~respondent and the respondent's counsel~~] following individuals may be  
782 present during the presentation of testimony and evidence to the [~~committee.]~~ commission:

783 [~~(c) Only Ethics Committee members and staff may be present during other portions of~~  
784 ~~the preliminary inquiry.]~~

785 [~~(5) Except for the official record, no camera or recording device may be brought in or~~  
786 ~~used in the preliminary inquiry.]~~

787 [~~(6) Upon consent of a majority of its members, the committee may permit any person,~~  
788 ~~not compelled or invited, to appear and testify at a hearing or submit a sworn written statement~~  
789 ~~of facts or other documentary evidence for incorporation into the record.]~~

790 [~~(7) (a) The release of any testimony or other evidence presented at a closed hearing~~  
791 ~~and the form and manner of that release shall be by a majority vote of all members of the~~  
792 ~~committee.]~~

793 [~~(b) Committee members and committee staff may not publicly disclose any other part~~  
794 ~~of the preliminary inquiry.]~~

795 (i) the complainants, except that no more than three complainants may be present at  
796 one time;

797 (ii) complainants' counsel, if applicable;

798 (iii) the respondent;

799 (iv) the respondent's counsel, if applicable;

800 (v) members of the commission;

801 (vi) staff to the commission;

802 (vii) a witness, while testifying before the commission; and

803 (viii) necessary security personnel.

804 (c) The complainants, respondent, and their respective counsel may be excluded from a  
805 portion of the meeting when the commission discusses administrative, procedural, legal, or  
806 evidentiary issues by:

807 (i) the order of the chair, subject to override as provided in JR6-2-302; or

808 (ii) a majority vote of the commission.

809 (d) When the commission deliberates at the conclusion of presentation of testimony  
810 and evidence, the commission shall ensure that those deliberations are closed to all persons  
811 except for the members of the commission and commission staff.

812 [~~(8)~~] (5) If a majority of the [~~committee~~] commission determines that a continuance is  
813 necessary to obtain further evidence and testimony [~~are necessary~~], to accommodate  
814 administrative needs, or to accommodate the attendance of commission members, witnesses, or  
815 a party, the [~~committee~~] commission shall:

816 (a) adjourn and continue the [~~preliminary inquiry hearing~~] meeting to a future date and  
817 time after notice to the parties; and

818 (b) establish that future date and time by majority vote.

819 Section 20. **JR6-4-202** is repealed and reenacted to read:

820 **JR6-4-202. Record -- Recording of Meetings.**

821 (1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), an individual may not use a camera or  
822 other recording device in any meeting authorized by this part.

823 (b) (i) The commission shall keep an audio or video recording of all portions of each  
824 meeting authorized by this part.

825 (ii) If the commission elects, by a majority vote, to release the commission's  
826 recommendation in a public meeting, the meeting may, upon a majority vote of the  
827 commission, be opened to cameras or other recording devices.

828 (2) In addition to the recording required in Subsection (1), the chair shall ensure that a  
829 record of the meeting or hearing is made, which shall include:

830 (a) official minutes taken during the meeting or hearing, if any;

831 (b) copies of all documents or other items admitted into evidence by the commission;

832 (c) copies of any documents or written orders or rulings issued by the chair or the  
833 commission; and

834 (d) any other information that a majority of the commission or the chair directs.

835 (3) Except for the recommendation prepared by the commission, which shall be either  
836 a private or public record as determined in JR6-4-204, any recording, testimony, evidence, or  
837 other record of a meeting authorized by this part is a private record under Section 63G-2-302  
838 and may not be disclosed.

839 Section 21. **JR6-4-203** is repealed and reenacted to read:

840 **JR6-4-203. Process for Making a Decision -- Deliberations.**

841 (1) After each party has presented a closing argument, the commission shall, at the  
842 direction of the chair, begin its private deliberations:

843 (a) immediately after conclusion of the closing arguments; or

844 (b) at a future meeting of the commission, on a date and time determined by a majority  
845 of the members of the commission.

846 (2) The chair of the commission shall conduct the deliberations.

847 (3) (a) During deliberations, for each allegation reviewed by the commission, each  
848 member shall determine and cast a vote stating whether the allegation is:

849 (i) proven by a preponderance of the evidence; or

850 (ii) not proven.

851 (b) A verbal roll call vote shall be taken on each allegation and each member's vote  
852 shall be recorded.

853 (4) (a) A count is not considered to be proven unless four of the five members of the  
854 commission vote that the count is proven.

855 (b) A count that is not considered to be proven is dismissed.

856 (c) (i) Before the commission issues its recommendation under JR6-4-204, the  
857 commission may, upon a majority vote, reconsider and hold a new vote on an allegation.

858 (ii) A motion to reconsider a vote may only be made by a member of the commission  
859 who voted that the allegation was not proved.

860 (5) At the conclusion of deliberations, the commission shall prepare its  
861 recommendations as provided in JR6-4-204.

862 Section 22. **JR6-4-204** is repealed and reenacted to read:

863 **JR6-4-204. Recommendations of Commission.**

864 (1) If the commission determines that no allegations in the complaint were proved, the  
865 commission shall:

866 (a) issue and enter into the record an order that the complaint is dismissed because no  
867 allegations in the complaint were found to have been proved;

868 (b) classify all recordings, testimony, evidence, orders, findings, and other records  
869 directly relating to the meetings authorized by this part as private records under Section  
870 63G-2-302;

871 (c) provide notice of the determination, in a manner determined by a majority vote of  
872 the commission, to:

873 (i) the respondent; and

874 (ii) the first complainant named on the complaint; and

875 (d) provide notice to a person named in Subsection (1)(c) that, under the provisions of  
876 JR6-3-102 and other provisions of this title, a person who discloses the findings of the  
877 commission is in contempt of the Legislature and is subject to penalties for contempt.

878 (2) If the commission determines that one or more of the allegations in the complaint  
879 were proved, the commission shall:

880 (a) if one or more allegations were not found to have been proven, enter into the record  
881 an order dismissing those unproven allegations;

882 (b) prepare a written recommendation to the Senate Ethics Committee, if the  
883 respondent is a Senator, or to the House Ethics Committee, if the respondent is a  
884 Representative, that:

885 (i) lists the name of each complainant;

886 (ii) lists the name of the respondent;

887 (iii) states the date of the recommendation;

888 (iv) for each allegation that was found to be proven:

889 (A) provides a reference to the code of conduct or criminal provision allegedly  
890 violated;

891 (B) states the number and names of commission members voting that the allegation  
892 was proved and the number and names of commission members voting that the allegation was  
893 not proved;

894 (C) at the option of those members voting that the allegation was proved, includes a  
895 statement by one or all of those members stating the reasons for voting that the allegation was  
896 proved, provided that the statement does not cite specific evidence, specific testimony, or

897 specific witnesses; and

898 (D) at the option of those members voting that the allegation was not proved, includes  
899 a statement by one or all of those members stating the reasons for voting that the allegation was  
900 not proved, provided that the statement does not cite specific evidence, specific testimony, or  
901 specific witnesses;

902 (v) contains any general statement that is adopted for inclusion in the recommendation  
903 by a majority of the members of the commission;

904 (vi) contains a statement referring the allegations found to have been proved to the  
905 appropriate ethics committee for review;

906 (vii) states the name of each member of the commission; and

907 (viii) is signed by each commission member;

908 (c) direct staff to publicly release the recommendation, the complaint, and the  
909 response, subject to the redaction of any allegations that were dismissed by the commission;  
910 and

911 (d) classify all other recordings, testimony, evidence, orders, findings, and other  
912 records directly relating to the meetings and hearings authorized by this part as private records  
913 under Section 63G-2-302.

914 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the commission may not release a  
915 recommendation during the 60 calendar days immediately preceding:

916 (a) a regular primary election, if the accused legislator is a candidate in the primary  
917 election; or

918 (b) a regular general election in which the accused legislator is a candidate, unless the  
919 accused legislator is unopposed in the election.

920 (4) The commission shall ensure that a copy of the recommendation is made publicly  
921 available and promptly provided to:

922 (a) the respondent, together with notice that the respondent may amend respondent's  
923 witness list as provided in JR6-4-301;

924 (b) the first complainant named on the complaint, together with notice that the  
925 complainants may amend their witness list as provided in JR6-4-301; and

926 (c) the chair and vice chair of the Senate Ethics Committee, if the respondent is a  
927 Senator, or the chair and vice chair of the House Ethics Committee, if the respondent is a

928 Representative.

929 (5) The commission shall ensure that, within five business days of the date of issuance  
930 of the recommendation:

931 (a) the complaint and the response are redacted to remove references to those  
932 allegations found not to have been proven by the commission, if one or more allegations were  
933 found not to have been proven; and

934 (b) the following documents are made publicly available and are provided to the chair  
935 and vice chair of the Senate Ethics Committee, if the respondent is a Senator, or the chair and  
936 vice chair of the House Ethics Committee, if the respondent is a Representative:

937 (i) a cover letter referring the allegations contained in the edited complaint to the ethics  
938 committee for the committee's review;

939 (ii) a copy of the edited complaint;

940 (iii) a copy of the edited response; and

941 (iv) a copy of the recommendation.

942 Section 23. **JR6-4-301** is repealed and reenacted to read:

943 **Part 3. Review of Ethics Complaint by Ethics Committee**

944 **JR6-4-301. Receipt of Recommendation from Independent Legislative Ethics**  
945 **Commission -- Scheduling of Ethics Committee Hearing -- Amendments.**

946 (1) Within five calendar days of the date that the chair of the Senate Ethics or House  
947 Ethics Committee receives the commission's recommendation as provided under JR6-4-204,  
948 the chair and vice chair of the committee shall:

949 (a) schedule a committee hearing to review the complaint on a date no later than 30  
950 days after of the day on which the committee receives the recommendation; and

951 (b) place the ethics complaint on the agenda for consideration at that hearing.

952 (2) (a) The complainants may not amend the complaint.

953 (b) The respondent may not amend the response.

954 (c) The complainant and respondent may file with the committee, within 10 days of the  
955 date of issuance of the commission's recommendations, an amended list of witnesses and  
956 evidence that they wish to have subpoenaed by the committee.

957 Section 24. **JR6-4-302** is repealed and reenacted to read:

958 **JR6-4-302. Review of Ethics Complaint by Ethics Committee.**

959 (1) The scope of the committee's review is limited to the alleged violations found to  
960 have been proven by the commission, as pled in the edited complaint and the edited response  
961 provided by the commission.

962 (2) (a) Before holding the hearing for review of the complaint as scheduled in  
963 JR6-4-301, the chair may schedule a separate meeting of the committee to:

964 (i) hear motions or arguments from the parties, including hearing motions or arguments  
965 relating to dismissal of a complaint, admission of evidence, or procedures; or

966 (ii) hold a vote of the committee, with or without the attendance of the parties, on  
967 procedural or committee business matters relating to a complaint.

968 (b) Notwithstanding JR6-4-301, the committee may, by a majority vote, change the  
969 date of the hearing scheduled in JR6-4-301 in order to accommodate:

970 (i) a meeting authorized under Subsection (2)(a); or

971 (ii) necessary scheduling requirements.

972 (3) (a) The committee shall comply with the Utah Rules of Evidence, except where the  
973 committee determines, by majority vote, that a rule is not compatible with the requirements of  
974 this title.

975 (b) The chair shall make rulings on admissibility of evidence consistent with the  
976 provisions of JR6-4-202.

977 (4) (a) A meeting or hearing held under this Chapter 4, Part 3, Review of Ethics  
978 Complaint by Ethics Committee:

979 (i) is subject to the requirements of Title 52, Chapter 4, Open and Public Meetings Act;  
980 and

981 (ii) may be closed by a majority vote of the committee, held in the public portion of the  
982 meeting, for:

983 (A) any purpose permitted under Section 52-4-205;

984 (B) the purpose of discussing legal, evidentiary, or procedural matters with the  
985 committee or staff; or

986 (C) deliberations, as provided in JR6-4-304.

987 (b) Only committee members, committee staff, and necessary security personnel may  
988 attend a closed meeting.

989 (5) If a majority of the committee determines that a continuance of a meeting or

990 hearing is necessary to obtain further evidence and testimony, to accommodate administrative  
991 needs, or to accommodate the attendance of committee members, witnesses, or a party, the  
992 chair or committee shall:

993 (a) adjourn and continue the hearing or meeting to a future date and time; and

994 (b) establish that future date and time by majority vote.

995 Section 25. **JR6-4-303** is repealed and reenacted to read:

996 **JR6-4-303. Record -- Recording of Meetings.**

997 (1) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (1)(b), an individual may not use a camera or  
998 other recording device in any meeting authorized by this part.

999 (b) (i) The committee shall keep an audio or video recording of all portions of each  
1000 meeting authorized by this part.

1001 (ii) If the committee elects, by a majority vote, to release the committee's finding and  
1002 order in a public meeting, that meeting may, upon a majority vote of the committee, be opened  
1003 to cameras or other recording devices.

1004 (2) In addition to the recording required in Subsection (1), the chair shall ensure that a  
1005 record of each hearing or meeting is made, which shall include:

1006 (a) official minutes taken during the meeting or hearing, if any;

1007 (b) copies of all documents or other items admitted into evidence;

1008 (c) copies of any documents, written orders, or written rulings issued by the chair or the  
1009 committee; and

1010 (d) any other information that a majority of the committee or the chair directs.

1011 (3) (a) Except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), all recordings, testimony, evidence,  
1012 and other records of meetings and hearings authorized by this part are public records.

1013 (b) All recordings, minutes, and other records produced during a closed meeting  
1014 authorized under this part are classified as private records under Section 63G-2-302.

1015 Section 26. **JR6-4-304** is repealed and reenacted to read:

1016 **JR6-4-304. Process for Making a Decision -- Deliberations -- Voting in Public**  
1017 **Meeting.**

1018 (1) After each party has presented a closing argument, the committee shall deliberate in  
1019 a closed meeting:

1020 (a) immediately after conclusion of the closing arguments; or

1021 (b) at a future meeting of the committee, on a date and time determined by a majority  
1022 of the members of the committee.

1023 (2) The chair of the committee shall conduct the deliberations.

1024 (3) During the deliberations, committee members may:

1025 (a) discuss evidence and testimony;

1026 (b) discuss and debate whether an allegation was proven or not proven;

1027 (c) discuss and debate what actions should be taken or not taken against the respondent  
1028 in relation to each allegation;

1029 (d) discuss and debate any other matter related to the allegations in the complaint that  
1030 is before the committee; and

1031 (e) conduct, at the call of the chair or a majority of the members of the committee, a  
1032 non-binding straw poll on any matter related to the complaint.

1033 (4) (a) Notwithstanding JR6-2-306, and except as provided in Subsection (4)(b), from  
1034 the time of completion of closing arguments through the time that the written finding and order  
1035 are publicly issued, a committee member may not discuss any of the following matters with any  
1036 other person outside of official committee deliberations:

1037 (i) the substance or specifics of the allegations, testimony, or evidence of the complaint  
1038 under review;

1039 (ii) a committee member's intended vote;

1040 (iii) a committee member's recommendation for actions to be taken or not taken against  
1041 the respondent in relation to the complaint; or

1042 (iv) any other non-administrative matter related to the complaint.

1043 (b) During deliberations, committee members may privately consult with staff for the  
1044 purpose of discussing legal, evidentiary, or procedural matters.

1045 (5) Deliberations shall continue until they are concluded or continued to another date  
1046 and time:

1047 (a) at the direction of the chair, subject to JR6-2-302; or

1048 (b) upon a motion approved by a majority of the committee members.

1049 Section 27. **JR6-4-305** is repealed and reenacted to read:

1050 **JR6-4-305. Vote on Allegations and Recommendations -- Public Meeting --**  
1051 **Standards -- Reconsideration.**

1052 (1) After conclusion of the deliberations, the committee shall meet in public and, for  
1053 each allegation reviewed by the committee, vote on whether the allegation is:

1054 (a) proven by clear and convincing evidence; or

1055 (b) not proven.

1056 (2) For any count that has been voted as proven, the committee shall, by a motion  
1057 approved by a majority of the members of the committee, recommend one or more of the  
1058 following actions:

1059 (a) censure;

1060 (b) expulsion;

1061 (c) denial or limitation of any right, power, or privilege of the respondent, if, under the  
1062 Utah Constitution, the Senate or House may impose that denial or limitation, and if the  
1063 violation bears upon the exercise or holding of any right, power, or privilege; or

1064 (d) any other action that the committee determines is appropriate.

1065 (3) Votes shall be taken by verbal roll call and each member's vote shall be recorded.

1066 (4) A count is not considered to be proven unless a majority of the committee votes  
1067 that the count is proven.

1068 (5) The committee, by a motion for reconsideration that is approved by a majority of  
1069 the committee, may reconsider and hold a new vote provided that:

1070 (a) a motion to reconsider a vote on whether an allegation was proven or not proven  
1071 may only be made by a member of the committee who voted that the allegation was not proven;  
1072 and

1073 (b) a motion to reconsider a vote recommending an action against the respondent may  
1074 only be made by a member of the committee who voted against the recommendation.

1075 (6) A count that is not voted as "proven" by a majority of the members of the  
1076 committee is dismissed.

1077 (7) The committee may close the meeting for the purposes of further deliberations,  
1078 subject to the requirements of JR6-4-304:

1079 (a) at the direction of the chair, subject to override by the committee as provided in  
1080 JR6-2-302; or

1081 (b) upon a motion approved by a majority of the members of the committee.

1082 (8) After a final vote has been cast on each allegation and recommendation, the

1083 committee shall prepare the finding and order as provided in JR6-4-306.

1084 Section 28. **JR6-4-306** is repealed and reenacted to read:

1085 **JR6-4-306. Finding and Order.**

1086 (1) (a) If the committee determines that no allegations in the complaint were proved,

1087 the committee shall prepare a finding and order that:

1088 (i) lists the name of each complainant;

1089 (ii) lists the name of the respondent;

1090 (iii) states the date of the finding and order;

1091 (iv) for each allegation contained in the complaint:

1092 (A) provides a reference to the code of conduct or criminal provision alleged to have

1093 been violated; and

1094 (B) states the number and names of committee members voting that the allegation was

1095 proved and the number and names of committee members voting that the allegation was not

1096 proved;

1097 (v) order that the complaint is dismissed because no allegations in the complaint were

1098 found to have been proved;

1099 (vi) provide any general statement that is adopted for inclusion in the recommendation

1100 by a majority of the committee members; and

1101 (vii) states the name of each committee member.

1102 (b) Each committee member shall sign the finding and order.

1103 (2) (a) If the committee determines that one or more allegations in the complaint were

1104 proved, the committee shall issue a finding and order that:

1105 (i) lists the name of each complainant;

1106 (ii) lists the name of the respondent;

1107 (iii) states the date of the finding and order;

1108 (iv) for each allegation contained in the complaint:

1109 (A) provides a reference to the code of conduct or criminal provision alleged to have

1110 been violated;

1111 (B) states the number and names of committee members voting that the allegation was

1112 proved and the number and names of committee members voting that the allegation was not

1113 proved;

1114 (C) if the allegation was not found not to have been proven, orders that the allegation  
1115 be dismissed; and

1116 (D) if the allegation was found to have been proven, contains:

1117 (I) a description of any actions that the committee recommended be taken;

1118 (II) the number and names of committee members voting in favor of each  
1119 recommendation and the number and names of committee members voting against each  
1120 recommendation;

1121 (III) at the option of those members voting in favor of a recommendation, a statement  
1122 by one or all of those members stating the reasons for making the recommendation; and

1123 (IV) at the option of those members against a recommendation, a statement by one or  
1124 all of those members stating the reasons for opposing the recommendation;

1125 (v) contains any general statement that is adopted for inclusion in the finding and order  
1126 by a majority of the committee members;

1127 (vi) contains a statement directing that the finding be delivered to:

1128 (A) for the Senate Ethics Committee, to the President of the Senate, the Senate  
1129 majority leader, and the Senate minority leader; or

1130 (B) for the House Ethics Committee, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
1131 the House majority leader, and the House minority leader; and

1132 (vii) states the name of each committee member.

1133 (b) Each committee member shall sign the finding and order.

1134 (3) A copy of the finding and order shall be made publicly available.

1135 (4) A written copy of the finding and order shall be provided to:

1136 (a) the respondent;

1137 (b) the first complainant named on the complaint; and

1138 (c) any individuals required to receive a copy as stated in the finding and order.

1139 **Section 29. Repealer.**

1140 This resolution repeals:

1141 **JR6-4-205, Rights of the Respondent.**

1142 **JR6-4-206, Record.**

1143 **JR6-4-207, Process for Making a Decision -- Remedies -- Publication of Decision.**

1144 **JR6-4-307, Disciplinary Hearing Process -- Phase 1, Adjudication Phase.**

- 1145           **JR6-4-308, Disciplinary Hearing Process -- Phase II, Penalty Phase -- Remedies.**
- 1146           **JR6-4-309, Announcement of Decision.**
- 1147           **JR6-4-310, Records of Disciplinary Hearing.**
- 1148           Section 30. **Effective date.**
- 1149           This resolution takes effect upon approval by a constitutional majority vote of all
- 1150 members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

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**S.J.R. 3 1st Sub. (Green) - Joint Resolution on Ethics Complaint Procedures**

**Fiscal Note**

2010 General Session  
State of Utah

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**State Impact**

Costs associated with this bill depend upon a number of unpredictable factors including the number of complaints issued, the nature of complaints, the number of meetings required, and staff and attorney effort required. If no ethics complaints are filed in a year, the Independent Legislative Ethics Commission would meet once per year, at an annual cost of \$700 starting in FY 2011. If ethics complaints are filed, additional costs may include per diem, travel, legislative salaries, staff time, attorney fees, and ancillary meeting costs.

	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2011</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2012</u> <u>Approp.</u>	<u>FY 2010</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2011</u> <u>Revenue</u>	<u>FY 2012</u> <u>Revenue</u>
General Fund	\$0	\$700	\$700	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$700</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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**Individual, Business and/or Local Impact**

Complainants would have the option, at their own expense, to hire attorneys. Individual legislators against whom a complaint is filed would have the option, at their own expense, to hire attorneys; however, if complaints are dropped by the ethics commission or committee, the legislator's reasonable attorney fees will be reimbursed by the state. Complainants and respondents may spend personal resources gathering and presenting evidence.