

Legislative Ethics

RULES SUB-COMMITTEE: JANUARY, 2026

Documents for this meeting:

A. potential 1st draft of legislator conduct rules based on discussion/consensus at October leg. council meeting

B. spreadsheet of sources of draft rules for reference and potential revision

Review

- review document A

Decide

- make decisions regarding statute of limitations alternatives, whether reprimand is informal or formal, whether ethics committee should have alternate members, whether there should be a mediation option, whether ethics committees should make recommendations, whether committee can “exonerate”

Revise or approve

- revise or approve draft language

plan for
meeting

if a draft is approved:

1. staff will create a second version for the house

2. staff will identify joint rules, senate rules, and house rules that should be amended or repealed so that drafts can be integrated into rules

fewer ethics committee meetings (TX)

more decisions made prior to an investigation

discussion of decorum

flexibility

fairness toward all

creation of a legislative process

conformity with constitution

creating one source for procedure

objectives in
document A
based on last
leg. council
meeting

process described in document A

- 1. any senator can file a complaint**
- 2. initial meeting: ethics committee dismisses complaint or refers it to special counsel**
- 3. special counsel conducts investigation and makes a report to the committee and the subject of the investigation**
- 4. committee dismisses complaint or schedules a due process hearing**
- 5. due process hearing**
- 6. committee dismisses complaint or requests an ethics resolution be drafted**
- 7. executive action on resolution**

possible
additional
decisions

should filing a complaint and initial review be confidential?

should nonmembers be able to file a complaint?

should the rules address conduct of nonmembers participating in the legislative process?