

Presentation by Representative Galvin, Representative McCabe
& Senior Staff Monica Schwingendorf

HB 298 - ETHICS ACT

AGENDA

1. History of Ethics Committee
2. Four Primary Section Revisions
3. Q&A

INTRODUCTION

The Ethics Act Applies To

The Alaska Legislative Ethics Act applies to:

- Legislators
- Employees of the Legislative Branch
- Public members of the Ethics Committee
- Agencies under the jurisdiction of the Alaska Legislature
- *The Committee does not have jurisdiction over employees of the Executive Branch within the Alaska State Government.

Responsibilities of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics:

- Helping legislators and legislative employees understand and comply with the Ethics Act
- Issuing formal advisory opinions interpreting the Act
- Reviewing and considering complaints alleging violations
- Maintaining public disclosure statement files



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Long-Term Executive Director
- Early Beginnings of the Bill

KEY SECTION REVISIONS



Operating
Procedures



Ethic's Committee
Structure



Current
Committee Advice



Complaint Section

CLARIFYING OPERATING PROCEDURES

Subpoena Powers (Sec. 1 & 8)

Protection of Whistleblowers
(Sec. 4)

Per Diem Reimbursement (Sec. 7)

Advisory Opinion Timeframes
(Sec. 9)

CLARIFYING
ETHIC'S
COMMITTEE
STRUCTURE

Ombudsman's
Jurisdiction (Sec. 2)

Political Make-up of
Committee (Sec. 6)

Definition of Public
Member (Sec. 26)

UPDATING
CODE TO
CURRENT
COMMITTEE
ADVICE



Use of Legislator's Title
(Sec.3)



Gift Documentation
(Sec.5)

CLARIFYING THE COMPLAINT SECTION

Receipt of a Complaint Closure (Sec.10)

Stipulations during Campaign Period (Sec. 24, 27)

Confidentiality of Committee Actions/Documents (Sec.11, 12, 13,14, 18, 19, 21)

Subject of Complaint Confidentiality (Sec. 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 22)

Complainant Confidentiality (Sec.15, 20, 23)

Definition of Witness (Sec.20)

Referrals to Other Agencies (Sec.25)



Q & A