

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