

Alaska State Legislature

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

1500 West Benson Blvd, Suite 220
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 269-0150
Ethics.Committee@akleg.gov

Mailing Address:
PO Box 90251
Anchorage, AK 99509-0251
Website: <http://ethics.akleg.gov>

Full Committee Meeting THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026 2:30 PM - 4:30 PM STATE CAPITOL ROOM 106

Meeting will be teleconferenced
Anchorage Only: 563-9085
Juneau Only: 586-9085
Outside Anchorage or Juneau: 1-844-586-9085

FULL COMMITTEE: Open Session (+) indicates background material in packet.

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (+)
3. CHAIR OF THE FULL COMMITTEE – AS 24.60.130(d) “... the chair selected by the house subcommittee shall chair the full committee beginning the first day of the regular session in even-numbered years.”
4. PUBLIC MEMBER VACANCIES (+)
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (+)
 - a. Full committee meeting minutes - November 21, 2025
 - b. House Subcommittee meeting minutes - November 21, 2025
 - c. Senate Subcommittee meeting minutes - November 21, 2025
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. Motion to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss matters which by law must remain confidential under AS 24.60.160, Uniform Rule 22(b) regarding executive sessions, and Rules of Procedure Section 5: Executive Sessions and discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a governmental unit, and discussion of subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of a person.
8. EXECUTIVE SESSION
9. PUBLIC SESSION
10. COGEL CONFERENCE REPORT

11. LEGISLATIVE CHANGE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT- Review/Concur (+)
12. CHAIR/STAFF REPORT (+)
 - a. FY 2026 Budget Status (+)
 - b. Benefit and Loan Update – Department of Transportation (+)
 - c. Staff Report of Informal Advice (+)
 - d. Staffing Workload and Focus Areas (+)
 - e. Publications
 - i. 2025 Public Decisions Booklet – AS 24.60.150(a)(2)
 - ii. 2026 Standards of Conduct Handbook – AS 24.60.150(a)(3)
13. FORMER REPRESENTATIVE ALAN DICK – Corrective Action (+)
14. COMPLAINT CONFIDENTIALITY WAIVER FORM – Update (+)
15. OTHER BUSINESS
16. ADJOURN

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

PUBLIC MEMBER VACANCIES

AS 24.60.130, AS 24.60.131, and AS 24.60.134. The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics (committee) is comprised of nine members: five public members and four legislators. One alternate public member shall be appointed to serve on the committee. The Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court nominates public members. Nominees must be ratified by two thirds of each house of the legislature.

Public members serve a three-year term and may be reappointed. Public member terms expire on the first day of the legislative session. A public member continues in office until a successor has been appointed and ratified or until the 30th calendar day of the first legislative session that follows the successor's appointment, whichever is earlier.

Visit <http://ethics.akleg.gov/committee.php> or call 907-269-0150 for a list of legislators and public members currently serving on the committee. The Ethics Committee office is located in Anchorage.

PUBLIC MEMBER VACANCY

Deb Fancher – Term expires 2026

ALTERNATE PUBLIC MEMBER VACANCY

- **One alternate public member position is vacant.**

ALTERNATE PUBLIC MEMBER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS

- Serve as a full Public Member when a Public Member is unable to participate in a Committee meeting
- Have the full authority of a Public Member when participating in Committee meetings
- Learn the functions of the Committee and contents of the Ethics Act
- Receive notice of and non-confidential documents related to upcoming Committee meetings
- Attend Ethics Trainings

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ALL PUBLIC MEMBERS INCLUDE:

- A resident of Alaska interested in serving on the committee
- No more than one public member may be a former legislator
- No more than two public members may be members of the same political party
- May not be a legislator
- May not be a legislative employee
- May not be an elected or appointed official required to make a public official financial disclosure ([AS 39.50](#))
- May not be an officer of a political party
- May not be a candidate for public office
- May not be a registered lobbyist

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Public members and alternate public members serve without compensation for their services, but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized for boards and commissions under [AS 39.20.180](#).
- The committee meets on an 'as needed' basis, usually four to six times a year. During legislative session, all committee meetings are held in Juneau. During the interim, committee meetings are held in Anchorage.
- [AS 24.60.210\(b\)](#) requires public members, alternate public members, public member nominees, and alternate public member nominees to file a Financial Disclosure with the Alaska Public Offices Commission covering the previous calendar year on or before the second Monday of January of each year. Contact APOC for additional information at 907-276-4176.

TO APPLY TO BE A PUBLIC MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WHEN THERE IS A VACANCY:

- Send a letter of interest along with a resume and your political party affiliation as listed on your voter registration to: The Honorable Susan Carney, Alaska Supreme Court, 303 K St. 5th floor, Anchorage, AK 99501.

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS

NOVEMBER 21, 2025

12:00 PM

DRAFT

12:06:07 PM

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chair Joyce Anderson convened the full meeting of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics on November 21, 2025, at 12:06 PM. She directed Administrator Kevin Reeve to conduct roll call.

Roll Call

Chair Joyce Anderson

Committee Member Skip Cook (via Microsoft Teams)

Committee Member Deb Fancher

Committee Member Conner Thomas

Committee Member Carl White

Senator Gary Stevens

Senator Mike Cronk (alternate for Senator Robert Yundt)

Representative Kevin McCabe (via Microsoft Teams)

Representative Alyse Galvin (via Microsoft Teams)

Others

Administrator Kevin Reeve

Ethics Administrative Assistant Jacqueline Yeagle

Ethics Assistant Jamie Benton

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Chair proposed amendments to the agenda, removing the following items: Items 5, 6, and 7 – Executive Session. Item 9C – Harassment and Civility Training. Item 9D – Late Filing Disclosures in the Senate and House Journal Supplements. Motion to approve the amended agenda as presented by Carl White. No objections. Motion passed.

12:08:09 PM

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

a. Full Committee Meeting of November 12, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Deb Fancher. No objections.

Motion passed.

b. Full Committee Meeting of May 30, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Carl White. No objections. Motion passed.

c. Senate Subcommittee Meeting of May 30, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Deb Fancher. No objections.

Motion passed.

d. House Subcommittee Meeting of July 25, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Skip Cook. No objections. Motion passed.

e. Full Committee Meeting of July 25, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Carl White. No objections. Motion passed.

f. Senate Subcommittee Meeting of September 23, 2025

A typo in Item 1 was noted by Representative Galvin (“September 23, 2023” corrected to “September 23, 2025”). Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Skip Cook. No opposition. Motion passed.

g. Full Committee Meeting of September 23, 2025

Administrator Kevin Reeve reminded the committee that at the May 30, 2025, meeting, that the committee had decided to seek an advisory opinion regarding mailing graduation communications. He requested an amendment on page 6, Item

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9, to clarify that Legislative Legal Services is always available to provide legal opinions and assist with advisory opinions. All remaining minutes in the paragraph remain unchanged. Motion to approve the minutes as amended by Connor Thomas. No opposition. Motion passed.

12:15:02 PM

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Anderson opened the meeting to public comment. There was no public comment.

5. Motion to go into **EXECUTIVE SESSION** *to discuss matters which by law must remain confidential under AS 24.60.160, Uniform Rule 22(b) regarding executive sessions, and Rules of Procedure Section 5: Executive Sessions and discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a governmental unit, and discussion of subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of a person.*

Removed from the agenda.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION (+)

Removed from the agenda.

7. PUBLIC SESSION

Removed from the agenda.

12:17:04 PM

8. Sealaska Corporation Internship update (presentation by Sealaska)

Ms. Charlotte Moore, Internship Program Coordinator for Sealaska, presented a proposal to establish an annual internship/fellowship program for Sealaska shareholders and descendants, beginning with the 2027 legislative session. The intent is to afford two to five interns with hands-on experience in legislative and policy work.

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Ms. Moore described the proposed program including placement of interns in legislative offices focusing on tribal affairs, fisheries, land and resources, environmental conservation, and education. Expected duties such as attending committee and staff meetings, constituent communication, research, and general office support were discussed. Ms. Moore stated Sealaska will require regular check-ins from interns, blogs, surveys, and a possible presentation to the Sealaska Board. In turn, Sealaska will provide living stipends, housing assistance, and travel support.

The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics raised considerations for Sealaska. Senator Stevens requested clarification on the presentation regarding the wording of interns “carrying legislation” and Ms. Moore elucidated that interns would not carry legislation; wording in the draft proposal will be corrected. Representative Galvin expressed concern about describing the program as “advocacy work.” Ms. Moore agreed to revise language to reflect non-partisan staff expectations. Administrator Reeve discussed whether public blogging by interns would be appropriate; no determination was made. Senator Stevens encouraged limiting participation to Alaska residents. Ms. Moore will consult Sealaska leadership regarding whether such a restriction can be adopted.

The Chair noted distinctions between volunteer service, internships, and third-party payment under AS 24.60.080(h) and Ms. Moore confirmed Sealaska interns would receive a stipend rather than hourly pay. The committee clarified to Ms. Moore that all interns, including those associated with Sealaska, must complete legislative ethics training and are subject to Rules Committee approval for office placement.

A motion was made by Carl White to approve the Sealaska internship program as presented, with an understanding that language in the proposal will be updated regarding terminology and legislative requirements. The committee voted unanimously to approve the Sealaska Corporation internship program for the 2027 legislative session.

12:45:01 PM

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1. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS (+)

a. Travel policy guidelines

Administrator Kevin Reeve provided an update on the subcommittee's work. A preliminary outline of proposed travel policy guidelines has been drafted, with contributions from staff and the subcommittee chair. Due to workload constraints, the subcommittee does not yet have a complete draft for committee review. Administrator Kevin Reeve noted the growing need to formally document standards for airfare class, allowable reimbursements, and other travel-related practices.

Committee Member Deb Fancher added that three members will attend the upcoming Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (COGEL) conference in three weeks, where they plan to gather examples from jurisdictions with comparable travel challenges, including Guam and Hawaii. The goal is to identify reasonable and practical standards without having to build the policy entirely from scratch.

Committee members discussed current inconsistencies in airfare purchasing practices—specifically varying use of super-saver fares, main cabin fares, and assigned-seat options—and noted the need for clearer guidelines on what constitutes a reimbursable standard. The committee emphasized they are not seeking preferential treatment, but a uniform policy that is fair, defensible, and reflective of Alaska's unique travel realities.

The subcommittee intends to reconvene after the COGEL conference, gather additional information, and report back to the full committee. No timeline for completion has been established.

12:50:02 PM

b. Rules of Procedure (+)

The Chair provided background on the Rules of Procedure Subcommittee, which met on September 5 to review Sections 1–12 of the committee's Rules of Procedure. She noted that revisions to complaint-related procedures will be addressed separately later.

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The Chair confirmed that the Rules of Procedure are public documents as they are adopted during public meetings. She acknowledged concerns that had been raised about the use and interpretation of the rules in past matters and agreed that the topic may be revisited during the complaint-procedure review process.

Internship Program. Committee Member Deb Fancher questioned if the definition of “legislative employee,” includes interns. Chair Joyce Anderson agreed that expressly identifying interns improves clarity. The committee clarified that the ethics office approves the internship program itself, rather than individual intern hires. Approval remains with the legislative office where the intern may work.

The Committee concurred.

Employment prerequisites. The committee reviewed proposed language establishing a process for appointing an Acting Interim Administrator in the event of an unexpected vacancy. The Chair referenced commitments made to the Ombudsman following the passing of Administrator Jerry Anderson. Revisions include options for appointments of an Acting Interim Administrator, including a sitting public member, the ethics administrative assistant, or another qualified individual subject to committee approval. Additionally, the Committee will notify legislative leadership and the Chief Justice when an interim appointment is made.

The Committee concurred.

Administrator Kevin Reeve clarified for the committee that new employees of the Ethics committee will undergo an Alaska State Troopers background check, sign confidentiality acknowledgments and complete ethics training. Additionally, the administrator may approve merit-based pay increases after consultation with the chair.

The Committee concurred.

Benefit and Loan Program. The Chair addressed that language requiring state departments to justify changes to the benefit/loan list was removed as it was deemed

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unnecessary. The committee clarified that significant changes to the list must be approved by majority vote in a public meeting.

The Committee concurred.

Executive Sessions. The committee discussed revisions regarding circumstances under which a complainant may be asked to testify in executive session under AS 24.60.170(b). The committee agreed testimony is limited to issues related to the complainant's belief that a statute has been violated and established additional revisions emphasizing confidentiality concerns and allows complainants to participate via teleconference or online technology when necessary.

The Committee concurred.

Use of Teleconference and Online Technology. The committee updated language to reflect the use of "online technology" and removed outdated references to telephonic equipment. The Chair conveyed that the revisions allow for preliminary examinations to be conducted using teleconference or online technology, however deliberations during the investigation phase must occur in person.

The Committee concurred, noting that in-person requirements may be reevaluated at a future date.

Materials and Correspondence. The committee discussed and agreed that confidential materials transmitted to non-committee recipients will be sent by U.S. Mail with return receipt. Confidential documents may be transmitted by email after confirming the intended recipient's address. Draft minutes will be posted "when available," removing the requirement for next-workday posting. Duplicative language regarding subpoena requirements was removed. The requirement that original complaints be forwarded "immediately" to staff was amended to remove the word "immediately."

The Committee concurred.

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Informal Advice. The committee clarified that staff would request additional information when informal advice requests lack sufficient detail. Staff may issue advice only regarding the person making the request, not third parties.

The Committee concurred.

Advisory Opinions. The committee reviewed and discussed proposed updates to the advisory opinion process. In that, requests may be submitted in any written format, including email. The 60-day timeline begins upon receipt of the request. If additional information is required, the 60-day period restarts when the requested information is received. Draft opinions will not include identifying information. Procedures for requesting extensions were clarified. If the committee cannot meet within 60 days and the requester declines to grant an extension, the chair may circulate a draft opinion for member concurrence. If a majority concurs, the draft becomes a tentative advisory opinion, which is not binding until formally adopted at a subsequent meeting. The tentative opinion will be shared confidentially with the requester. If concurrence is not reached, the full committee must meet to finalize the opinion.

The Committee concurred.

Motion to approve the amended Rules of Procedure as presented by Conner Thomas. No objections. Motion passed.

c. Ethics legislation (+)

The Chair explained that the subcommittee met previously on October 31, 2025, to review the April 25 draft regarding updates to legislation developed by Senator Tobin's office. She stated the purpose was to review and approve revised draft statutory language and authorize submission to Legislative Legal Services for formal drafting. She iterated that although the committee was scheduled to meet until 2:00 p.m., the intent was to continue until the ethics legislation review was complete as the goal is to finalize draft language suitable for submission to Legislative Legal Services.

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Subpoena Authority. The Chair stated current law requires concurrence of the Senate President or House Speaker for issuance of subpoenas unless the entity is listed as exempt. The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics is not listed. She noted that the committee has previously issued subpoenas and was unaware of the concurrence requirement at the time. Members agreed confidentiality and independence concerns justify adding the Ethics Committee to the exempt list. Senator Stevens and others acknowledged the statutory ambiguity and the need for clarity.

The Committee concurred adding the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics to entities authorized to issue subpoenas without external concurrence.

Ombudsman Jurisdiction. The Chair addressed a complaint filed with the Ombudsman against the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics raised ambiguity: legislators are exempt, but public members and employees of the Ethics Committee were not explicitly exempted. The Chair proposed that public members make decisions jointly with legislators; excluding them from the exemption created confusion. This exemption was included as part of the negotiated resolution of a prior Ombudsman complaint. The Committee concurred with adding public members and employees of the Ethics Committee to the Ombudsman exemption.

Use of Title “Senator/Representative. The Chair addressed codifying long-standing Ethics Committee guidance regarding permissible use of legislative titles. The Chair proposed a legislator may use the title “Senator” or “Representative” provided the use does not create the appearance that legislative action may be taken or withheld for private benefit.

The Committee concurred.

Mass Mailings During Campaign Period – Clarification and Limitation. The Chair noted numerous disputes arise each election season regarding what can be sent during the 60-day campaign period. Current law contains an exemption allowing use of the “office allowance account,” leading to inconsistent interpretations. The Chair proposed removing the exemption for use of office allowance funds during the 60-day period, clarify

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permissible communications during that period and adding explicit allowance for communications necessary due to emergencies, natural disasters, or urgent public needs.

Committee members expressed concern that removal of the exemption narrows what has historically been allowed. Representative McCabe raised timing concerns in that 60 days are close to the end of session when wrap-up newsletters are commonly sent.

Additionally email communications are not clearly addressed in statute; members noted inconsistency in past guidance and enforcement. Representative McCabe observed the ambiguity that legislators may send mass emails using personal resources as statute does not clearly prohibit it. All members agreed that staff time, state devices, and state email systems cannot be used during the campaign blackout. However, members emphasized the need for clarity and fairness across incumbents and challengers.

The Committee agreed to remove this from the current draft and revisit the mass-mailing statute separately after further study, including consideration of email definitions and blackout periods.

Whistleblower Protection. The Chair proposed clarification regarding whistleblower protections. Currently protection applies only to legislators and legislative employees, not members of the public. She noted a prior complaint revealed confusion about confidentiality and applicability of existing protections. Public complainants are not covered by statute, and this section clarifies that.

The Committee concurred.

Gifts Related to Travel, Documentation of Agenda. The Chair stated the committee previously adopted a rule requiring agendas for travel-related gifts and this addition is formalizing it in statute. The Chair proposed requiring an agenda or equivalent documentation demonstrating the primary legislative purpose. On a different subject regarding Gifts of Travel Representative McCabe raised whether the \$250 gift limit remains appropriate given increased travel costs. Members agreed this figure may be outdated.

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The Committee concurred with the agenda-documentation requirement and agreed to revisit the \$250 threshold separately.

Per Diem for Public Members. The Chair addressed that public members currently receive executive-branch per diem rates (\$60/day), unlike legislators and Ethics staff. The Chair proposed public members receive the same Legislative Council per diem rates. The Committee concurred.

Subpoena Authority Placement. The Chair reiterated the earlier statutory addition specifying that the Ethics Committee chair may authorize subpoenas.

The Committee concurred.

Advisory Opinions – Time Extension. The Chair reiterated current statute requires the requestor's permission to extend the 60-day deadline. She proposed allowing the committee itself to extend the deadline when necessary.

The Committee concurred.

Mr. Dan Wayne noted that the ethics legislation materials offered to the full committee for presentation purposes did not conform to the formatting requirements for a legislative work draft. Senator Stevens requested that the materials be converted into a formal legislative work draft for committee review and approval. The Chair recommended an additional meeting to complete the review of proposed changes to legislation.

2. Chair/Staff Report (+)

a. FY 2026 Budget status (+)

Not discussed due to time restraints, removed from agenda.

b. Staff Report on Informal Advice (+)

Not discussed due to time restraints, removed from agenda.

c. Harassment and Civility training

Removed from agenda.

- d. Annotation of late filing of disclosures in the journal.
Removed from agenda.
- e. Benefit and Loan Update Department of Transportation (+)
Not discussed due to time restraints, removed from agenda.
- f. COGEL conference update
The administrator confirmed with the chair on attendees regarding the 2025 COGEL conference.
- g. Staffing workload and focus areas (+)
Not discussed due to time restraints, removed from agenda.
- h. Status of Reinbold case
Not discussed due to time restraints, removed from agenda.
- i. Alan Dick corrective action update (+)
Not discussed due to time restraints, removed from agenda.

3. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Public member vacancies
Not discussed due to time restraints, removed from agenda.
- b. New legislator training
Not discussed due to time restraints, removed from agenda.

4. ADJOURN

Senator Stevens moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2:31 PM.

2:31:50 PM

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
NOVEMBER 21, 2025
9:00 AM

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE

DRAFT

9:03:45 AM

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thomas called together the November 21, 2025, House Subcommittee meeting at 9:04 AM. He directed Administrator Kevin Reeve to conduct roll call.

Roll Call

Skip Cook (Via Microsoft Teams)

Chair Conner Thomas

Joyce Anderson

Deb Francher

Carl White

Representative Alyse Galvin (via Microsoft Teams)

Representative Kevin McCabe (via Microsoft Teams)

Others

Kevin Reeve

Jacqueline Yeagle

Jamie Benton

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Thomas entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

Deb Francher so moved.

9:07:00 AM

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. Chair Thomas entertained a MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss matters which by law must remain

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confidential under AS 24.60.160, Uniform Rule 22(b) regarding executive sessions, and Rules of Procedure Section 5: Executive Sessions and discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a governmental unit, and discussion of subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of a person.

Representative Kevin McCabe so moved.

9:08:29 AM

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

9:08:29 AM

6. PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Thomas re-opened public session.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

8. ADJOURN

Chair Thomas entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Joyce Anderson so moved.

10:44:14 AM

ADJOURN:

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ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
NOVEMBER 21, 2025
2:30 PM

SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
DRAFT

2:40:20 PM

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Anderson called together the November 21, 2025, Senate Subcommittee meeting at 2:40 PM, and directed Administrator Kevin Reeve to conduct roll call.

Roll Call

Skip Cook
Chair Conner Thomas
Joyce Anderson
Deb Fancher
Carl White
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Mike Cronk

There was a quorum.

Others

Kevin Reeve
Jacqueline Yeagle
Jamie Benton

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Joyce Anderson entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

Skip Cook so moved.

2:39:56 PM

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. Chair Anderson entertained a **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** to discuss matters which by law must remain confidential under AS 24.60.160, Uniform Rule 22(b) regarding executive sessions, and Rules of Procedure Section 5: Executive Sessions and discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a governmental unit, and discussion of subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of a person.

Carl White so moved.

2:40:51 PM

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

2:58:09 PM

6. PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Anderson entertained a motion to return to public session.

Deb Fancher so moved.

Chair Anderson read from the Ethics Committee Rules of Procedure Section 17(b)(1):

After deliberations and vote in executive session, pursuant to AS 24.60.170(f), the committee will reconvene in a public session. (Exception: subsection(c) Dismissal Prior to Investigation.) The motion approved in executive session stating a probable cause violation of AS 24.60 or a dismissal of the charge will be read. The statement will include an affirmation indicating the decision was by a majority vote of the committee.

Chair Anderson reported a failure in following that charge in the meeting on September 23, 2025. She read a statement acknowledging the error and put on the public record the Senate Subcommittee had deliberated and voted in executive session and found probable cause in Complaint S 24-01.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

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There was no other business.

8. ADJOURN

Joyce Anderson entertained a motion to return to public session.

Deb Fancher so moved.

2:59:57 PM

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM.

DRAFT

January 15, 2026, Full Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 11

Legislative Change Subcommittee - Review/Concur

BACKGROUND:

The Full Committee met on November 21, 2025, and reviewed the 04/25/25 draft ethics legislation sponsored by Senator Loki Tobin through Section 9 and approved the suggested changes. The goal today is to finish reviewing the draft legislation beginning with Section 10 and making suggestions for changes.

Section 10 begins with AS 24.60.170, the complaint process. Section 10 begins on page 8 of the draft legislation included in your packet. Section 10 begins on page 2 of the Ethics Office handout in your packet.

The Ethics Office handout specifies changes that are being proposed to the 4/25/25 draft bill. The Ethics office handout is an outline of recommended/proposed changes (made by the Legislative Change Subcommittee or during the November committee meeting) to the 4/25/25 draft bill. **Actions requested of the committee:**

- Approve the suggested changes to draft bill 34-S0505/G, Wayne, 4/25/25.
- Recommend Representative Galvin forward the changes to LAA Legal, Dan Wayne, for a new draft of the bill.
- Request that Dan Wayne/Representative Alyse Galvin forward the new draft of the bill to Administrator Kevin Reeve.
- Direct Administrator to forward the draft bill to the entire ethics committee for review.
- After reaching committee consensus, request that Representative Galvin take steps to introduce the bill at the earliest opportunity during the regular session.

NOTES:

Representative Alyse Galvin has agreed to sponsor the ethics bill with Representative Kevin McCabe as the co-sponsor. Senator Tobin agreed to release the bill to Representative Galvin to update the draft legislation. Representative Galvin has placed a work order request to LAA Legal to update the draft ethics bill. LAA Legal stated another work order request needed to be submitted by

Representative Galvin to have Uniform Rule 22d changed since current ethics statutory language, AS 24.60.170(l) states, “All meetings of the committee before the determination of probable cause are closed to the public and to legislators who are not members of the committee.” Alaska State Legislature Uniform Rules, Rule 22 Open and Executive Sessions, (d) states, “The provisions of this rule may not be interpreted as permitting the exclusion of a legislator from an executive session, whether or not the legislator is a member of the body that is meeting.

The following changes were made at the Ethics Committee meeting on November 20, 2025 and January 15, 2026 to the Ethics Legislation Work Draft 34-LS0505/G; Wayne; 4/25/25.

Ethics Legislation Work Draft 34-LS0505/G; Wayne; 4/25/25

NO CHANGE	Section 1. AS 24.25.010(e), page 1
NO CHANGE	Section 2. AS 24.55.330(2), page 1
NO CHANGE	Section 3. AS 24.60.030(a), pages 2-5
DELETE	Section 4. AS 24.60.030(c), page 5
NO CHANGE	Section 5. AS 24.60.035, page 5-6
NO CHANGE	Section 6. AS 24.60.060, page 6
NO CHANGE	Section 7. AS 24.60.080(d), page 6-7
NO CHANGE	Section 8. AS 24.60.130(c), page 7
ADD	AS 24.60.130(f) is amended to read: (f) The committee may contract professional services and may employ staff as considered necessary. A committee employee, including a person who provides personal services under a contract with the committee, may not be a legislator, an appointed official of a state or local government entity, an officer of a political party, a candidate for public office, or a registered lobbyist. The legislative council shall provide office space, equipment, and additional staff support for the committee. The committee shall submit a budget for each fiscal year to the finance committees of the legislature and shall annually submit an estimated budget to the governor for information purposes in preparation of the state operating budget. Public members of the committee serve without compensation for their services but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized <u>by the legislative council under AS 24.10.130(c)</u> [FOR BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS UNDER AS 39.20.180].
NO CHANGE	Section 9. AS 24.60.150(b), page 7-8

ADD

AS 24.60.160(a) is amended to read:

(a) On request of the committee, the Alaska Public Offices Commission, a person to whom this chapter applies, or a person who has been newly elected to the legislature, the committee shall issue an advisory opinion within 60 days as to whether the facts and circumstances of a particular case constitute a violation of ethical standards. If it finds that it is advisable to do so, the committee may issue an opinion under this section on the request of a person who reasonably expects to become subject to this chapter within the next 45 days. The 60-day period for issuing an opinion may be extended by the committee if there are circumstances that prevent the committee from meeting within the 60 days or if the period prior to the 60 days does not allow adequate time to prepare a draft opinion [THE PERSON REQUESTING THE OPINION CONSENTS].

DELETE

Section 10. AS 24.60.170(b), page 8

ADD

AS 24.60.170(b) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(b) A complaint may be initiated by any person. The complaint must be in writing and signed under oath by the complainant, state that the complaint has reason to believe a violation of this chapter has occurred and describe the facts supporting that belief. The committee shall make a form available for filing a complaint. Upon receiving a complaint, committee staff will acknowledge receipt of the complaint within 5 days. The complainant will be advised that the committee or the subject of the complaint may ask the complainant to testify at any stage of proceeding under this section as to the complainant's belief that the subject of the complaint has violated this chapter.

DELETE

Section 11. AS 24.60.170(c), pages 8-9

ADD

AS 24.60.170(c) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(c) When the committee receives a complaint under (a) of this section, committee staff shall provide a copy of the complaint to the subject of the complaint no later than 10 days after receipt of the complaint. Committee staff shall within 10 days conduct a preliminary examination of the complaint and advise the committee chair whether the allegation are within the jurisdiction of the legislative ethics act, whether the provisions under (a) of this section apply, and a recommendation whether the allegations of the complaint, if true, constitute a violation of

this chapter and whether there is credible information to indicate a further investigation and a proceeding under this subsection is warranted.

DELETE

Section 12. AS 24.60.170(d), pages 9-10

ADD

AS 24.60.170(d) is repealed and reenacted to read:

(d) The committee shall schedule a committee meeting to consider the recommendation of committee staff. The committee may ask the complainant or the subject of the complaint or provide clarification or additional information before it decides under this subsection. The complainant and the subject of the complaint are not obliged to provide clarification or additional information.

1.) If the committee determines the allegations, if true, do not constitute a violation of this chapter, that the complaint is frivolous on its face, that there is insufficient credible information available or discoverable to support further investigation by the committee, the committee shall dismiss the complaint. The complainant and the subject of the complaint shall be notified of the committee's decision. A proceeding under this subsection, documents that are part of a proceeding, and a dismissal under this subsection are confidential as provided in (l) of this section.

2.) If the committee determines that some or all the allegations of a complaint, if true, constitute a violation of this chapter or if the committee has initiated a complaint, the committee shall investigate the complaint. Before investigating the complaint, the committee shall adopt a resolution defining the scope of the investigation to determine whether additional facts are required. A copy of the resolution shall be provided to the subject of the complaint. The complainant will be notified that the allegations are being investigated. As part of the investigation, the committee shall give the subject of the complaint an opportunity to explain the conduct alleged to constitute a violation of this chapter. If during the investigation, the committee discovers facts that justify expanding the investigation or adding new charges to the complaint, the committee shall amend the scope of investigation and provide a copy of the amended scope of investigation to the subject of the complaint. The investigation is subject to confidentiality requirements under (l) of this section.

DELETE Section 13. AS 24.60.170(e), Page 10

ADD AS 24.60.170(e) is repealed and reenacted to read:

e.) Committee deliberations and votes regarding a complaint, at any stage of the complaint process, shall be held in executive session. The executive session is not open to the public, legislators who are not members of the committee, the complainant or the subject of the complaint. Committee decisions made in executive session that are required to be made public will be announced at a public meeting of the committee stating that a majority of the committee voted in favor of the decision. The committee shall disclose the name of committee members present at the meeting. The number of votes case for or against a motion and the individual votes cast by committee members remain confidential.

DELETE Section 14. AS 24.60.170(f), page 10

Delete the following language on Line 18-21:

A committee deliberation or vote concerning probable cause or an [COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS AND VOTE ON THE DISMISSAL] order to dismiss is [AND DECISION ARE] not open to the public, the COMPLAINANT, OR [TO] THE SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT.

ADD From Ethics Committee Redraft dated 31OCT25:

Page 10 of the Work Draft dated April 25, 2025, Section 14, AS 24.60.170(f) is redrafted to read,

If the committee determines after investigation

1.) There is no probable cause to believe the subject of the complaint has violated this chapter, the committee shall dismiss the complaint. The committee shall issue an order explaining its dismissal. The committee shall provide a copy of the order to dismiss the complainant and to the subject of the complaint. The order to dismiss is not open to inspection and copying by the public.

2.) Portions of a complaint may be dismissed due to no finding of probable cause to believe the subject of the complaint violated this chapter as alleged in these portions. The committee will issue a public decision order stating the finding of probable cause for allegations violating AS 24.60 and dismiss allegations due to no finding of probable cause for allegations violating AS 24.60. The committee shall provide a copy of the decision order for the complainant and to the subject of the complaint. The

decision order is a public document. Notwithstanding (l) of this section, the decision order is open to inspection and copying by the public.

CHANGE/DELETE Section 15. AS 24.60.170(g), page 10-11

Page 11, change Line 7 to read:

complaint within 10 days after receiving a request for a confidential meeting.

Page 11, Lines 7-9, Delete the rest of the sentence:

or as soon as practicable, whichever is later, and explain the reasons for **the recommendation** [ITS RECOMMENDATIONS].

From Ethics Committee Redraft dated 31OCT25:

Page 11 of the Work Draft dated April 25, 2025, Section 15, AS 24.60.170(g), Lines 6-9 reads as follows:

Add “confidential” prior to the word “meeting”. New language to read as follows: **The committee shall meet with the complainant within 10 days after receiving a request for a confidential meeting**

NO CHANGE Section 16. AS 24.60.170(h), pages 11-12

NO CHANGE Section 17. AS 24.60.170(i), page 12

NO CHANGE Section 18. AS 24.60.170(j), pages 12-13

NO CHANGE Section 19. AS 24.60.170(k), pages 13-14

CHANGE Section 20. AS 24.60.170(l), page 14

Page 14, Add the language in bold and underlined on Line 19-20 to read:

information sufficient to disclose the identity **and contact information** of other persons identified in the complaint, **including the complainant**, is redacted.

From Ethics Committee Redraft dated 31OCT25:

Page 14 of the Work Draft dated April 25, 2025, Section 20, AS 24.60.170(l) is repealed and reenacted, Lines 17-20 reads as follows:

Change Line 17 to Line 20 to read as follows:... If the subject of a complaint waives confidentiality of the complaint under this subsection, the complaint may not be made public unless information sufficient to disclose the identity of other persons identified in the complaint,

including the complainant, is redacted. A person may not disclose names or other information that may be used to identify a witness without the consent of the witness. In this subsection, “witness” means the complainant, the subject of the complaint or another person who may give testimony in the matter.

DELETE Section 21. AS 24.60.170(m), pages 14-15

Delete the following language on page 15, Lines 1-6.

A deliberation or vote [DELIBERATIONS] of the committee following a hearing, **a deliberation or vote** [DELIBERATIONS] on **a motion** [MOTIONS] filed by **a person charged** [THE SUBJECT OF A CHARGE] under (h) of this section, and **a deliberation or vote** [DELIBERATIONS] concerning **an** appropriate **sanction** [SANCTIONS] are confidential.

From Ethics Committee Redraft dated 31OCT25:

Page 14 of the Work Draft dated April 25, 2025, Section 21, AS 24.60.170(m) is amended, Lines 26-31 and Page 15 Lines 1-6 reads as follows:

AS 24.60.170(m) All documents issued by the committee after a determination of probable cause to believe that the subject of a complaint has violated this chapter, including a recommendation under (g) of this section and a formal charge under (h) of this section, are subject to public inspection. Hearings of the committee under (j) of this section are open to the public, and documents presented at a hearing, and motions filed in connection with the hearing are subject to inspection by the public

Section 21. Delete the following language on page 14, Lines 1-6.

A deliberation or vote [DELIBERATIONS] of the committee following a hearing, **a deliberation or vote** [DELIBERATIONS] on **a motion** [MOTIONS] filed by **a person charged** [THE SUBJECT OF A CHARGE] under (h) of this section, and **a deliberation or vote** [DELIBERATIONS] concerning **an** appropriate **sanction** [SANCTIONS] are confidential.

NO CHANGE

Section 22. AS 24.60.170(r), page 15

ADD	Section 23. AS 24.60.171, page 15-16
	Page 15, Add the language in bold and underlined on Line 20 to read: committee receives a complaint concerning the conduct of a candidate for state office, <u>who is covered under AS 24.60,</u>
DELETE	Section 23. AS 24.60.172, page 16-17
NO CHANGE	Section 24. AS 24.60.975, page 17
	From Ethics Committee Redraft dated 31OCT25: <i>Page 16 of the Work Draft dated April 25, 2025, Section 23, AS 24.60 is amended by adding a new section to read: AS 24.60.172 Committee proceedings closed pending probable cause determination, Page 16, Lines 26-31 and Page 17, Lines 1-6.</i> <i>Delete: Sec. 24.60.975. Referral to Alaska Public Offices Commission. If the committee finds evidence of a probable violation of AS 15.13 by a person who is subject to the Legislative Ethics Act, the committee shall transmit a statement to that effect and factual findings limited to the probable violation to the Alaska Public Offices Commission.</i>
NO CHANGE	Section 25. AS 24.60.990(a), page 17
NO CHANGE	Section 26. AS 24.60.170(o), 24.60.170(p), 24.60.170(q), page 17
NO CHANGE	Section 27. This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c), page 17

34-LS0505\G
Wayne
4/25/25

SENATE BILL NO.

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Introduced:
Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to the Legislative Ethics Act; relating to legislative subpoenas; relating
2 to the jurisdiction of the office of the ombudsman; and providing for an effective date."

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 * **Section 1.** AS 24.25.010(e) is amended to read:

5 (e) This section does not apply to the legislative council, [OR TO] the
6 Legislative Budget and Audit Committee, or the Select Committee on Legislative
7 Ethics.

8 * **Sec. 2.** AS 24.55.330(2) is amended to read:

9 (2) "agency" includes a department, office, institution, corporation,
10 authority, organization, commission, committee, council, or board of a municipality or
11 in the executive, legislative, or judicial branches of the state government, and a
12 department, office, institution, corporation, authority, organization, commission,
13 committee, council, or board of a municipality or of the state government independent
14 of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches; it also includes an officer,

1 employee, or member of an "agency" acting or purporting to act in the exercise of
2 official duties, but does not include the governor, the lieutenant governor, a member of
3 the legislature, the victims' advocate, the staff of the office of victims' rights, a public
4 member of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics, an employee of the Select
5 Committee on Legislative Ethics, a justice of the supreme court, a judge of the court
6 of appeals, a superior court judge, a district court judge, a magistrate, a member of a
7 city council or borough assembly, an elected city or borough mayor, or a member of
8 an elected school board;

9 * Sec. 3. AS 24.60.030(a) is amended to read:

10 (a) A legislator or legislative employee may not

11 (1) solicit, agree to accept, or accept a benefit other than official
12 compensation for the performance of public duties; this paragraph may not be
13 construed to prohibit

14 (A) lawful solicitation for and acceptance of campaign
15 contributions;

16 (B) solicitation or acceptance of contributions for a charity
17 event, as defined in AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B);

18 (C) the acceptance of a gift under AS 24.60.075 or 24.60.080;
19 or

20 (D) a legislator from accepting reasonable, ordinary, and
21 customary travel and hospitality primarily for the purpose of solemnizing a
22 marriage under AS 25.05.261(a)(4);

23 (2) use public funds, facilities, equipment, services, or another
24 government asset or resource for a nonlegislative purpose, for involvement in or
25 support of or opposition to partisan political activity, or for the private benefit of the
26 legislator, legislative employee, or another person; this paragraph does not prohibit

27 (A) limited use of state property and resources for personal
28 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
29 either the cost or value related to the use is nominal or the legislator or
30 legislative employee reimburses the state for the cost of the use;

31 (B) the use of mailing lists, computer data, or other information

1 lawfully obtained from a government agency and available to the general
2 public for nonlegislative purposes;

3 (C) the legislative council, notwithstanding AS 24.05.190, from
4 designating a public facility for use by legislators and legislative employees for
5 health or fitness purposes; when the council designates a facility to be used by
6 legislators and legislative employees for health or fitness purposes, it shall
7 adopt guidelines governing access to and use of the facility; the guidelines may
8 establish times in which use of the facility is limited to specific groups;

9 (D) a legislator from using the legislator's private office in the
10 capital city during a legislative session, and for the 10 days immediately before
11 and the 10 days immediately after a legislative session, for nonlegislative
12 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
13 if there is no cost to the state for the use of the space and equipment, other than
14 utility costs and minimal wear and tear, or the legislator promptly reimburses
15 the state for the cost; an office is considered a legislator's private office under
16 this subparagraph if it is the primary space in the capital city reserved for use
17 by the legislator, whether or not it is shared with others;

18 (E) a legislator from use of legislative employees to prepare
19 and send out seasonal greeting cards;

20 (F) a legislator from using state resources to transport
21 computers or other office equipment owned by the legislator but primarily used
22 for a state function;

23 (G) use by a legislator of photographs of that legislator;

24 (H) reasonable use of the Internet by a legislator or a legislative
25 employee except if the use is for election campaign purposes;

26 (I) a legislator or legislative employee from soliciting,
27 accepting, or receiving a gift on behalf of a recognized, nonpolitical charitable
28 organization in a state facility;

29 (J) a legislator from sending any communication in the form of
30 a newsletter to the legislator's constituents, except a communication expressly
31 advocating the election or defeat of a candidate or a newsletter or material in a

1 newsletter that is clearly only for the private benefit of a legislator or a
2 legislative employee; [OR]

3 (K) full participation in a charity event approved in advance by
4 the Alaska Legislative Council; or

5 (L) a legislator from using the title "Senator" or
6 "Representative," as appropriate, as long as the use does not create an
7 appearance that the legislator may take or withhold action in exchange for
8 a private benefit for the legislator or another person;

9 (3) knowingly seek, accept, use, allocate, grant, or award public funds
10 for a purpose other than that approved by law, or make a false statement in connection
11 with a claim, request, or application for compensation, reimbursement, or travel
12 allowances from public funds;

13 (4) require a legislative employee to perform services for the private
14 benefit of the legislator or employee at any time, or allow a legislative employee to
15 perform services for the private benefit of a legislator or employee on government
16 time; it is not a violation of this paragraph if the services were performed in an
17 unusual or infrequent situation and the person's services were reasonably necessary to
18 permit the legislator or legislative employee to perform official duties;

19 (5) use or authorize the use of state funds, facilities, equipment,
20 services, or another government asset or resource for the purpose of political fund
21 raising or campaigning; this paragraph does not prohibit

22 (A) limited use of state property and resources for personal
23 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
24 either the cost or value related to the use is nominal or the legislator or
25 legislative employee reimburses the state for the cost of the use;

26 (B) the use of mailing lists, computer data, or other information
27 lawfully obtained from a government agency and available to the general
28 public for nonlegislative purposes;

29 (C) storing or maintaining, consistent with (b) of this section,
30 election campaign records in a legislator's office;

31 (D) a legislator from using the legislator's private office in the

1 capital city during a legislative session, and for the 10 days immediately before
2 and the 10 days immediately after a legislative session, for nonlegislative
3 purposes if the use does not interfere with the performance of public duties and
4 if there is no cost to the state for the use of the space and equipment, other than
5 utility costs and minimal wear and tear, or the legislator promptly reimburses
6 the state for the cost; an office is considered a legislator's private office under
7 this subparagraph if it is the primary space in the capital city reserved for use
8 by the legislator, whether or not it is shared with others; or

9 (E) use by a legislator of photographs of that legislator.

10 * **Sec. 4. AS 24.60.030(c)** is amended to read:

11 (c) Unless approved by the committee, during a campaign period for an
12 election in which a [THE] legislator or legislative employee is a candidate, the [A]
13 legislator or legislative employee may not use or permit another to use state funds [,
14 OTHER THAN FUNDS TO WHICH THE LEGISLATOR IS ENTITLED UNDER
15 AS 24.10.110,] to print or distribute a political mass mailing to individuals eligible to
16 vote for the candidate. Nothing in this subsection prohibits a communication that
17 is necessary to respond to an emergency, natural disaster, or other exigent
18 circumstance that creates an imminent need for information to be communicated.

19 In this subsection,

20 (1) a "campaign period" is the period that

21 (A) begins 60 days before the date of an election to the board
22 of an electric or telephone cooperative organized under AS 10.25, a municipal
23 election, or a primary election, or that begins on the date of the governor's
24 proclamation calling a special election; and

25 (B) ends the day after the cooperative election, municipal
26 election, or general or special election;

27 (2) a mass mailing is considered to be political if it is from or about a
28 legislator, legislative employee, or another person who is a candidate for election or
29 reelection to the legislature or another federal, state, or municipal office or to the
30 board of an electric or telephone cooperative.

31 * **Sec. 5. AS 24.60.035** is amended to read:

Sec. 24.60.035. Protection of whistle blowers. (a) A legislator or legislative employee may not, directly or indirectly, subject a person to reprisal, harassment, or discrimination for reporting [WHO REPORTS] to the committee or another government entity conduct the person reasonably believes is a violation of this chapter or another state law [, TO REPRISAL, HARASSMENT, OR DISCRIMINATION].

(b) A legislative employee who is discharged, disciplined, involuntarily transferred, or otherwise penalized by a legislator or another legislative employee in violation of this **section** [SUBSECTION] may

- (1) bring a complaint before the committee; and
- (2) bring a separate civil action in the courts seeking damages, back wages, reinstatement, or other relief.

* Sec. 6, AS 24.60.060 is amended by adding new subsections to read:

(c) If, in the course of an investigation or probable cause determination under AS 24.60.170, the committee finds evidence of probable criminal activity, the committee shall transmit a statement and factual findings limited to that activity to the appropriate law enforcement agency.

(d) If a complainant under AS 24.60.170 violates a confidentiality provision under that section, the committee may immediately dismiss the complaint. After the dismissal, the committee or a person other than the complainant may file a complaint based wholly or partly on facts alleged in the dismissed complaint.

* Sec. 7. AS 24.60.080(d) is amended to read:

(d) A legislator or legislative employee who accepts a gift under (c)(4) of this section that has a value of \$250 or more or a ticket to a charity event or gift in connection with a charity event under (c)(10) of this section that has a value of \$250 or more shall disclose to the committee, within 60 days after receipt of the gift, the name and occupation of the donor and the approximate value of the gift and, for a gift under (c)(4) of this section, a copy of the agenda or other documentation sufficient to show that the gift was primarily for the purpose of obtaining information on a matter of legislative concern. A legislator or legislative employee who accepts a gift under (c)(8) of this section that the recipient expects will have a value of \$250 or more in the calendar year shall disclose to the committee, within 30

1 days after receipt of the gift, the name and occupation of the donor, a general
2 description of the matter of legislative concern with respect to which the gift is made,
3 and the approximate value of the gift. The committee shall maintain a public record of
4 the disclosures it receives relating to gifts under (c)(4), (c)(8), (c)(10), and (i) of this
5 section and shall forward the disclosures to the appropriate house for inclusion in the
6 journal. The committee shall forward to the Alaska Public Offices Commission copies
7 of the disclosures concerning gifts under (c)(4), (c)(8), (c)(10), and (i) of this section
8 that it receives from legislators and legislative directors. A legislator or legislative
9 employee who accepts a gift under (c)(6) of this section that has a value of \$250 or
10 more shall, within 30 days after receiving the gift, disclose to the committee the name
11 and occupation of the donor and a description of the gift. The committee shall
12 maintain disclosures relating to gifts under (c)(6) of this section as confidential records
13 and may only use, or permit a committee employee or contractor to use, a disclosure
14 under (c)(6) of this section in the investigation of a possible violation of this section or
15 in a proceeding under AS 24.60.170. If the disclosure under (c)(6) of this section
16 becomes part of the record of a proceeding under AS 24.60.170, the confidentiality
17 provisions of that section apply to the disclosure.

18 * Sec. 8. AS 24.60.130(c) is amended to read:

19 (c) Not [NO] more than one public member may be a former legislator and
20 not [NO] more than two public members of the committee may be members of the
21 same political party. In this subsection, "public member" does not include an
22 alternate public member.

23 * Sec. 9. AS 24.60.150(b) is amended to read:

24 (b) The committee may

25 (1) recommend legislation to the legislature the committee considers
26 desirable or necessary to promote and maintain high standards of ethical conduct in
27 government;

28 (2) in a matter before the committee, subpoena witnesses, administer
29 oaths, [AND] take testimony [RELATING TO MATTERS BEFORE THE
30 COMMITTEE], and, when authorized by the chair of the committee, subpoena
31 [MAY REQUIRE] the production [FOR EXAMINATION] of [ANY] books or papers

1 for examination [RELATING TO ANY MATTER UNDER INVESTIGATION
2 BEFORE THE COMMITTEE].

3 * Sec. 10. AS 24.60.170(b) is amended to read:

4 (b) A complaint may be initiated by any person. The complaint must be in
5 writing and signed under oath by the complainant, state [PERSON MAKING THE
6 COMPLAINT AND MUST CONTAIN A STATEMENT] that the complainant has
7 reason to believe [THAT] a violation of this chapter has occurred and describe the
8 [ANY] facts supporting [KNOWN TO THE COMPLAINANT TO SUPPORT] that
9 belief. The committee shall make a form available for filing a complaint [UPON
10 REQUEST PROVIDE A FORM FOR A COMPLAINT TO A PERSON WISHING
11 TO FILE A COMPLAINT]. Upon receiving a complaint, the committee shall advise
12 the complainant that the committee or the subject of the complaint may ask the
13 complainant to testify at any stage of a [THE] proceeding under this section [AS TO
14 THE COMPLAINANT'S BELIEF THAT THE SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT
15 HAS VIOLATED THIS CHAPTER]. The committee shall respond to a complaint
16 concerning the conduct of a candidate for election to state office received during the
17 campaign period in accordance with AS 24.60.171(a) [(o) OF THIS SECTION]. The
18 committee shall treat a complaint concerning the conduct of a candidate for election to
19 state office that is pending at the beginning of a campaign period in accordance with
20 AS 24.60.171(b). Within 10 days after receiving a complaint, the [(p) OF THIS
21 SECTION. THE] committee shall [IMMEDIATELY] provide a copy [OF THE
22 COMPLAINT] to the [PERSON WHO IS THE] subject of the complaint. In this
23 section, "campaign period" has the meaning given in AS 24.60.170(e).

24 * Sec. 11. AS 24.60.170(c) is amended to read:

25 (c) When the committee receives a complaint under (a) of this section,
26 committee [IT MAY ASSIGN THE COMPLAINT TO A STAFF PERSON. THE]
27 staff [PERSON] shall conduct a preliminary examination of the complaint and advise
28 the committee whether the allegations of the complaint, if true, constitute a violation
29 of this chapter and whether there is credible information to indicate [THAT] a further
30 investigation and a proceeding under this subsection is warranted. The advice
31 [STAFF RECOMMENDATION] shall be based on [THE] information and evidence

1 that are part of [CONTAINED IN] the complaint or received from [AS
2 SUPPLEMENTED BY] the complainant or [AND BY] the subject of the complaint
3 after a request [COMPLAINT, IF REQUESTED TO DO SO] by committee [THE]
4 staff [MEMBER]. The committee shall consider the advice [RECOMMENDATION
5 OF THE STAFF MEMBER, IF ANY,] and [SHALL] determine whether the
6 allegations of the complaint, if true, constitute a violation of this chapter. If the
7 committee determines that the allegations, if true, do [PROVEN, WOULD] not
8 constitute a violation of this chapter [GIVE RISE TO A VIOLATION], that the
9 complaint is frivolous on its face, that there is insufficient credible information
10 available or discoverable [THAT CAN BE UNCOVERED] to support
11 [WARRANT] further investigation by the committee, or that the committee's lack of
12 jurisdiction is apparent on the face of the complaint, the committee shall dismiss the
13 complaint and [SHALL] notify the complainant and the subject of the complaint of the
14 dismissal. The committee may ask the complainant or the subject of the complaint to
15 provide clarification or additional information before it makes a determination
16 [DECISION] under this subsection. The [AND MAY REQUEST INFORMATION
17 CONCERNING THE MATTER FROM THE SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT.
18 NEITHER THE] complainant and [NOR] the subject of the [A] complaint are not
19 [IS] obligated to provide the clarification or additional information. A proceeding
20 conducted under this subsection, documents that are part of a proceeding, and a
21 dismissal under this subsection are confidential as provided in (l) of this section
22 [UNLESS THE SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT WAIVES CONFIDENTIALITY
23 AS PROVIDED IN THAT SUBSECTION].

24 * Sec. 12. AS 24.60.170(d) is amended to read:

25 (d) If the committee determines that some or all of the allegations of a
26 complaint, if true, [PROVEN, WOULD] constitute a violation of this chapter, or if the
27 committee has initiated a complaint, the committee shall investigate the complaint [,
28 ON A CONFIDENTIAL BASIS]. Before investigating [BEGINNING AN
29 INVESTIGATION OF] a complaint, the committee shall adopt a resolution defining
30 the scope of the investigation. A copy of the [THIS] resolution shall be provided to
31 the complainant and to the subject of the complaint. As part of the [ITS] investigation,

1 the committee shall give [AFFORD] the subject of the complaint an opportunity to
2 explain the conduct alleged to constitute [BE] a violation of this chapter. The
3 investigation is subject to confidentiality requirements under (l) of this section.

4 * **Sec. 13.** AS 24.60.170(e) is amended to read:

5 (e) If, during the investigation under (d) of this section, the committee
6 discovers facts that justify expanding [AN EXPANSION OF] the investigation and
7 possibly adding new [THE POSSIBILITY OF ADDITIONAL] charges to
8 [BEYOND THOSE CONTAINED IN] the complaint, the committee shall amend the
9 resolution adopted under [DESCRIBED IN] (d) of this section [SHALL BE
10 AMENDED ACCORDINGLY] and provide a copy of the amended resolution
11 [SHALL BE PROVIDED] to the subject of the complaint.

12 * **Sec. 14.** AS 24.60.170(f) is amended to read:

13 (f) If the committee determines after investigation that there is not probable
14 cause to believe [THAT] the subject of the complaint has violated this chapter, the
15 committee shall dismiss the complaint. The committee may also dismiss portions of a
16 complaint if it finds no probable cause to believe that the subject of the complaint has
17 violated this chapter as alleged in those portions. The committee shall issue an order
18 [A DECISION] explaining its dismissal. A committee deliberation or vote
19 concerning probable cause or an [COMMITTEE DELIBERATIONS AND VOTE
20 ON THE DISMISSAL] order to dismiss is [AND DECISION ARE] not open to the
21 public, the complainant, or [TO] the subject of the complaint. The committee shall
22 provide a [A] copy of the [DISMISSAL] order to dismiss [AND DECISION SHALL
23 BE SENT] to the complainant and to the subject of the complaint. Notwithstanding (l)
24 of this section, the [A DISMISSAL] order to dismiss [AND DECISION] is open to
25 inspection and copying by the public after the order is adopted.

26 * **Sec. 15.** AS 24.60.170(g) is amended to read:

27 (g) If the committee [INVESTIGATION] determines that a probable violation
28 of this chapter exists that may be corrected by action of the subject of the complaint
29 and [THAT] does not warrant sanctions other than correction, the committee may
30 issue a written recommendation that the subject of the complaint take [AN
31 OPINION RECOMMENDING] corrective action within 20 days. The

1 recommendation [. THIS OPINION] shall be provided to the complainant and to the
2 subject of the complaint [,] and is open to inspection by the public. Whether the
3 recommended corrective action is taken or not, the subject of the complaint may,
4 within [WITHIN] 20 days after receiving the recommendation, [OPINION, THE
5 SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT MAY] request a confidential meeting with the
6 committee. The [AT WHICH MEETING THE] committee shall meet with the
7 complainant within 10 days after receiving a request for a meeting or as soon as
8 practicable, whichever is later, and explain the reasons for the recommendation
9 [ITS RECOMMENDATIONS]. The committee may divulge confidential information
10 to the subject of the complaint. The information remains subject to the
11 confidentiality requirements of (l) of this section [CONFIDENTIAL. THE
12 SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT MAY COMPLY WITH THE OPINION OR MAY
13 REQUEST A HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE UNDER (j) OF THIS
14 SECTION. AFTER THE HEARING, THE COMMITTEE MAY AMEND OR
15 AFFIRM THE OPINION]. If the subject of the complaint [AGREES TO COMPLY
16 WITH THE OPINION BUT LATER] fails to complete the recommended corrective
17 action within 10 days after the confidential meeting [IN A TIMELY MANNER],
18 the committee may formally charge the subject of the complaint [PERSON] as
19 provided in (h) of this section or [MAY] refer the matter to the appropriate house of
20 the legislature, in the case of a legislator, or, in the case of a legislative employee,
21 refer the matter to the employee's appointing authority. The appropriate house of the
22 legislature or the appointing authority, as appropriate, may act [TAKE ACTION] to
23 enforce the committee's recommendation [CORRECTIVE ACTION] or may decline
24 to take action and refer the matter back to the committee. In either instance [CASE],
25 the committee may formally charge the subject of the complaint [PERSON] under
26 (h) of this section.

27 * Sec. 16. AS 24.60.170(h) is amended to read:

28 (h) If the subject of a complaint fails to comply with a recommendation
29 received under (g) of this section [AN OPINION] and the committee decides under
30 (g) of this section to charge the person, or, if the committee determines after
31 investigation under (d) of this section that there is probable cause to believe [THAT]

1 the subject of the complaint has committed a violation of this chapter that may require
2 sanctions instead of or in addition to corrective action, the committee shall formally
3 charge the person as soon as practicable. The charge shall be served on the person
4 charged, in a manner consistent with the service of summons under the rules of civil
5 procedure, and a copy of the charge shall be sent to the complainant. The person
6 charged may file a responsive pleading to the committee admitting or denying some or
7 all of the allegations of the charge.

8 * **Sec. 17.** AS 24.60.170(i) is amended to read:

9 (i) A person charged under (h) of this section may engage in discovery in a
10 manner consistent with the Alaska Rules of Civil Procedure. The committee may
11 adopt procedures that

12 (1) impose reasonable restrictions on the time for [THIS] discovery
13 and [ON] the materials that may be discovered;

14 (2) allow [PERMIT A PERSON WHO IS] the subject of a complaint
15 to engage in discovery as soon as a complaint is filed [AT AN EARLIER STAGE
16 OF THE PROCEEDINGS];

17 (3) impose reasonable restrictions, in addition to restrictions
18 imposed under (l) of this section, on the release of information acquired [THAT
19 THE SUBJECT OF A COMPLAINT ACQUIRES] from the committee in the course
20 of discovery, or acquired [ON INFORMATION OBTAINED] by use of the
21 committee's authority, in order to protect the privacy of persons not under
22 investigation [TO WHOM THE INFORMATION PERTAINS]; however, the
23 committee may not impose restrictions under this subsection on the release of
24 information by the subject of the complaint unless the complainant agrees [HAS
25 AGREED] to be bound by similar restrictions and does [HAS] not make [MADE]
26 public [THE] information [CONTAINED] in the complaint or [, INFORMATION]
27 about the complaint, including [OR] the fact [OF FILING] the complaint was filed.

28 * **Sec. 18.** AS 24.60.170(j) is amended to read:

29 (j) If the committee has issued a formal charge under (h) of this section [,] and
30 [IF] the person charged has not admitted the allegations of the charge, the committee
31 shall schedule a hearing on the charge. The committee may appoint a person who

1 does not advise the committee, except in the course of presenting cases under this
2 section, [AN INDIVIDUAL] to present the case against the subject of the complaint
3 [PERSON CHARGED IF THAT INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT PROVIDE OTHER
4 LEGAL ADVICE TO THE COMMITTEE EXCEPT IN THE COURSE OF
5 PRESENTING CASES UNDER THIS SUBSECTION]. The committee shall
6 schedule a hearing [SHALL BE SCHEDULED FOR A] date that is more than 20 and
7 fewer [LESS] than 90 days after service of the charge on the subject of the complaint
8 [PERSON CHARGED], unless the committee schedules a later hearing date. If the
9 complainant prevents the hearing from starting until after the date scheduled by the
10 committee [BEFORE THE 90-DAY DEADLINE PASSES] and a quorum of the
11 committee determines by vote of a majority of committee members the delay is not
12 supported by a compelling reason or will result in the person charged being deprived
13 of a fair hearing, the committee may order [DISMISS] the complaint dismissed with
14 prejudice or enter some other order the committee determines is appropriate. At the
15 hearing, the subject of the complaint [PERSON CHARGED] shall have the right to
16 appear personally before the committee, [TO] subpoena witnesses and require the
17 production of books or papers relating to the proceedings, [TO] be represented by
18 counsel, and [TO] cross-examine witnesses. A witness shall testify under oath. The
19 hearing is not subject to [COMMITTEE IS NOT BOUND BY] the rules of evidence,
20 but the committee's findings must be based upon clear and convincing evidence. The
21 committee shall record [TESTIMONY TAKEN AT] the hearing [SHALL BE
22 RECORDED.] and maintain evidence [SHALL BE MAINTAINED].

23 * Sec. 19. AS 24.60.170(k) is amended to read:

24 (k) Following the hearing, the committee shall issue a decision stating whether
25 or not the subject of the complaint violated this chapter, and explaining the reasons for
26 that [THE] determination. The committee [COMMITTEE'S DECISION] may also
27 indicate in the decision whether the subject of the complaint cooperated with the
28 committee in [ITS] proceedings under this section. If the committee finds that the
29 subject of the complaint violated this chapter or did not cooperate with
30 proceedings under this section, the committee shall recommend in the decision [A
31 VIOLATION, OR LACK OF COOPERATION BY THE SUBJECT, THE

1 DECISION SHALL RECOMMEND WHAT] sanctions, if any, the committee
2 believes are appropriate. If the committee does not hold a hearing under (j) of this
3 section [THERE HAS NOT BEEN A HEARING] because the subject of the
4 complaint [PERSON CHARGED] admitted [TO] the allegations of the charge, the
5 committee shall issue a decision outlining the facts of the violation and
6 recommending sanctions, if any, the committee believes are appropriate
7 [CONTAINING A SANCTIONS RECOMMENDATION].

8 * **Sec. 20.** AS 24.60.170(l) is repealed and reenacted to read:

9 (l) A complaint filed under this section is confidential. The complainant shall
10 keep confidential the filing of the complaint and the information that is in the
11 complaint. Except as otherwise provided in this section or as necessary for the
12 committee to administer the requirements of this section, documents produced or
13 disclosed as a result of a committee investigation under this section are confidential
14 and not subject to inspection by the public. The confidentiality provisions of this
15 subsection, other than those limiting disclosure of information that may be used to
16 identify a witness other than the subject of the complaint, may be waived by the
17 subject of the complaint. If the subject of a complaint waives confidentiality of the
18 complaint under this subsection, the complaint may not be made public unless
19 information sufficient to disclose the identity of other persons identified in the
20 complaint is redacted. A person may not disclose names or other information that may
21 be used to identify a witness without the consent of the witness. A person who is a
22 witness may consent to disclosure of their own name or identifying information. In
23 this subsection, "witness" means the complainant, the subject of the complaint, or
24 another person who may give testimony in the matter.

25 * **Sec. 21.** AS 24.60.170(m) is amended to read:

26 (m) All documents issued by the committee after a determination of probable
27 cause to believe that the subject of a complaint has violated this chapter, including a
28 recommendation [AN OPINION RECOMMENDING CORRECTIVE ACTION]
29 under (g) of this section and a formal charge under (h) of this section, are subject to
30 public inspection. Hearings of the committee under (j) of this section are open to the
31 public, and documents presented at a hearing, and motions filed in connection with the

1 hearing, are subject to inspection by the public. A deliberation or vote
2 [DELIBERATIONS] of the committee following a hearing, a deliberation or vote
3 [DELIBERATIONS] on a motion [MOTIONS] filed by a person charged [THE
4 SUBJECT OF A CHARGE] under (h) of this section, and a deliberation or vote
5 [DELIBERATIONS] concerning an appropriate sanction [SANCTIONS] are
6 confidential.

7 * **Sec. 22.** AS 24.60.170(r) is amended to read:

8 (r) At any point in a proceeding under this section [THE PROCEEDINGS
9 WHEN THE SUBJECT OF A COMPLAINT APPEARS BEFORE THE
10 COMMITTEE,] the subject of the [A] complaint may choose to be represented
11 [ACCOMPANIED] by a legal counsel or other [ANOTHER] person who may
12 [ALSO] present arguments before the committee. The choice of representation
13 [COUNSEL OR ANOTHER PERSON] is not subject to review and approval or
14 disapproval by the committee. The [CHOICE BY THE] subject of a complaint does
15 not waive confidentiality by choosing to be represented [TO BE ACCOMPANIED
16 UNDER THIS SUBSECTION DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF ANY
17 CONFIDENTIALITY PROVISION IN THIS CHAPTER].

18 * **Sec. 23.** AS 24.60 is amended by adding new sections to read:

19 **Sec. 24.60.171. Committee proceedings and campaign periods.** (a) If the
20 committee receives a complaint concerning the conduct of a candidate for state office
21 during a campaign period, the committee shall immediately notify the candidate of the
22 complaint, the suspension of the committee's jurisdiction during the campaign period,
23 and the candidate's right to waive the suspension of jurisdiction under this subsection.
24 The candidate may, within 11 days after the committee mails or otherwise sends
25 notice of the complaint to the candidate, notify the committee that the candidate
26 waives suspension of the committee's jurisdiction and chooses to have the committee
27 proceed with the complaint under this section. If the candidate does not act within that
28 time or if the candidate notifies the committee that the candidate is not waiving
29 suspension of the committee's jurisdiction, the committee shall return the complaint to
30 the complainant with notice of the suspension of jurisdiction under this subsection and
31 notice of the complainant's right to file the complaint after the campaign period ends.

(b) When a complaint concerning the conduct of a candidate for state office is pending before the committee at the beginning of a campaign period and the committee has not issued formal charges under AS 24.60.170(h), the committee may consider the complaint but shall treat the complaint as confidential under AS 24.60.170. The committee may not, during a campaign period, issue a dismissal order or decision under AS 24.60.170(f), issue a recommendation under AS 24.60.170(g), or formally charge a person under AS 24.60.170(h).

(c) If the committee has formally charged a person under AS 24.60.170(h) and the charge is still pending when a campaign period begins, the committee shall, unless the person charged requests otherwise, suspend public hearing of the charge until after the campaign period ends. However, the parties to the hearing may engage in discovery under AS 24.60.170(i) during the campaign period.

(d) If a hearing under AS 24.60.170(j) has been completed before the beginning of a campaign period but the committee has not yet issued a decision under AS 24.60.170(k), the committee may not issue the decision until after the campaign period ends.

(e) In this section, "campaign period" means a period that begins on the later of 45 days before a primary election in which a legislator or legislative employee is a candidate for state office or on the day a legislator or legislative employee files as a candidate for state office, and ends at the end of the day on the earlier of the day

(1) that the results of the primary election are certified and made public, if the candidate does not advance to the general or special election;

(2) of the general or special election at which the legislator or legislative employee is a candidate; or

(3) the candidate withdraws from the election.

Sec. 24.60.172. Committee proceedings closed pending probable cause determination. When a complaint alleging a violation of this chapter has been filed, a meeting of the committee to discuss the complaint is closed to the public and legislators who are not members or alternate members of the committee, until after the committee has determined whether there is probable cause to believe the subject of the complaint has violated this chapter. The committee may permit the subject of the

1 complaint to attend a meeting other than a meeting where the committee deliberates or
2 votes whether probable cause exists. The committee shall disclose the names of
3 members present at a meeting where the committee deliberates or votes on a motion
4 before the committee, and whether the outcome of the motion was determined by a
5 majority. The number of votes cast for or against a motion and the individual votes
6 cast by committee members are confidential.

7 * **Sec. 24.** AS 24.60 is amended by adding a new section to read:

8 **Sec. 24.60.975. Referral to Alaska Public Offices Commission.** If the
9 committee finds evidence of a probable violation of AS 15.13 by a person who is
10 subject to the Legislative Ethics Act, the committee shall transmit a statement to that
11 effect and factual findings limited to the probable violation to the Alaska Public
12 Offices Commission.

13 * **Sec. 25.** AS 24.60.990(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

14 (17) "public member" means a member or alternate member of the
15 committee who is not a member of the legislature.

16 * **Sec. 26.** AS 24.60.170(o), 24.60.170(p), and 24.60.170(q) are repealed.

17 * **Sec. 27.** This Act takes effect immediately under AS 01.10.070(c).

January 6, 2026 Full Committee Meeting

FY 2026 Budget Expenditures/balance

Object Type Code	Object Type Name	Expend Current Budget	Budgetary Expenditures	Available Expenditure Budget	Administrator's comments
1000	Personal Services	\$382,700	\$160,190.46	\$222,509.54	\$32,400 increase for: Step adjustment and 5% COLA Increase Health insurance/PERS/Salary increase Increase for 40 hour/week for Jacqui's position \$70,000 Leg Council authorization for nonpermanent position
2000	Travel	\$25,000	\$5,802.83	\$19,197.17	Unchanged. Travel expenses for the July committee meeting.
3000	Services	\$30,800	\$24,357.20	\$6,442.80	Unchanged. Spent \$486.50 for membership and postage. \$20,000 obligated for outside legal contract; \$0 spent.
4000	Commodities	\$1,800	\$1,880.47	-\$80.47	Unchanged. Food and supplies.
	Sum:	\$440,300	\$192,230.96	\$248,069.04	

January 15, 2026, Full Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 12b

Benefit and Loan- Department of Transportation

BACKGROUND: During the September 23, 2025 committee meeting, the Department of Transportations requested delisting several programs from the Benefits and Loans requiring disclosure. During the meeting Dom Pannone provided information regarding the reasoning for the request to delist those programs. The committee accepted the information provided but requested that the Department of Transportation submit the required change forms rather than accepting the email that was previously submitted.

After the September 23, 2025 committee meeting, both the staff and Administrator made multiple attempts to contact Mr. Pannone regarding submission of the required change forms. Upon contacting Mr. Pannone, he apologized for not submitting the change forms. Mr. Pannone informed that the Department of Transportation was task saturated responding to the flooding from typhoon Halong. He stated that the Department would not have the capacity to address the change request in the foreseeable future.

The Administrator suggested that under the current situation that it might be advisable to leave the programs listed on the Benefit and Loans requiring disclosure for this year. This course of action does not preclude employees covered by AS 24.60. from requesting/receiving the benefits. This course of action will allow the Department of Transportation to address the critical work in response to typhoon Halong and allow time to properly submit their delisting of the programs in 2026.

Mr. Pannone agreed with the suggested plan, and rescinded the Department's change request.

ACTION BY COMMITTEE:

No action required. This update is provided for the committee's information, and to close the matter.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
STAFF INFORMAL ADVICE REPORT
September 12, 2025, through January 7, 2026

Staff provides informal advice, under AS 24.60.158. Those requesting advice are told the advice, while given in good faith, is not binding on the committee unless the advice has been issued through the formal advisory opinion process. Requesters are told they may seek formal, binding advice by submitting a written request. The committee is asked to review the advice given and notify staff if any committee member has questions or disagrees with the advice. This report includes advice the committee may not have reviewed in the past; it does not represent all the inquires.

Administrative Hearings AS 24.60.030(i)

Benefit and Loans AS 24.60.050(c)

Boards and Commissions AS 24.60.030(f)

Campaign Related AS 24.60.030 and .031

1. **A legislator asked if campaign appointments can be posted on their “official” calendar.**
Consistent with previous informal guidance that campaign events can be listed on the legislator’s calendar. The events are necessary for the staff to properly maintain the legislator’s schedule.
2. **A legislator asked if a staff member can work on the legislator’s campaign when they are not being paid for “state workhours.”**
Informed the legislator that their employees can work for their campaign on personal time or when they are not being compensated by the state.
3. **A legislator’s staff raised questions about unique or different statutory requirements for legislators that are campaigning for state offices outside of the legislature.**
Informed the staff that the Act does not differentiate between campaigning for the legislature and other state offices. Reviewed the provisions in the Act with the staff at their request.

Close Economic Association AS 24.60.070

Constituent Services AS 24.60.030(e) AO 05-01 and AO 08-03

Contracts/Leases AS 24.60.040

Disclosures AS 24.60.105, .115, and .260

1. **Numerous legislators and staff have asked for informal advice regarding proper disclosure filing procedures.**
Answered questions and walked the legislator or staff through the process to access and submit the proper disclosures.
2. **A legislative employee asked if a close economic association would be required for two legislative employees when neither is a legislator and neither of the employees supervises the other.**
Informed the employee that AS 24.60.070 only requires disclosures when one of the parties is a legislator or supervises the other party.

Gifts AS 24.60.075 and .080

1. **A former legislative staffer asked whether it would be acceptable to offer legislators and staff a free trial of an AI research software that he had developed.**
Informed that if the free trial was generally available to the public to promote interest in his software program that it would be acceptable for the trial period. The tool allows the user to specify the sources (records/documents) for the search. The inquirer is familiar with the resources used by legislative staff and felt that they would be a good pilot group for assessment of his software.

Fund Raising

1. **A legislator's staff inquired whether it was acceptable for the legislator to participate in a food/fundraiser for a local food bank. The event was to be held at the local bowling alley. The legislator indicated that the lane fees were waived for the event.**
Informed the staff member that legislators can participate in charity fund raising events. Further, the lane fees were nominal; no disclosure was required.
2. **A legislator's staff asked if it would be acceptable to include information, donation sites, and other information related to a food drive for the local food bank (after the federal SNAP funding had lapsed) in the legislator's newsletter.**
Informed the staff member that it was acceptable for the legislator to include charity food/fundraising information in their newsletter.
3. **A legislative staffer asked if they could solicit or accept outside funding to participate in an unfunded professional fellowship.**
Informed that a covered employee can solicit and accept funding provided:
 - The scholarship is awarded through a competitive or merit-based process open to the public or a defined professional field.
 - The scholarship or its sponsor has no connection to the employee's legislative position.
 - The funding source is not a registered lobbyist, lobbying organization, or entity with a substantial interest before the Legislature; and
 - The employee participates on personal leave and does not use legislative resources or time in connection with the fellowship or the application for funding.

Government

Interns/Volunteers AS 24.60.080(h) and .112

Legal Fees Gift AS 24.60.080(c)(8)

Legislative Communications AS 24.60.030

- 1. A staff member asked if their legislator, using their legislative title, could nominate a local business for a local service award.**

Informed the staff member that use of legislative title to nominate the business for a service award was not prohibited under the Act.

Lobbyist Related (all calls referred to APOC for consideration, if needed)

Open Meetings AS 24.60.037

- 1. Two legislative offices asked if caucus meetings are subject to open meetings requirements.**

Reviewed the general requirements for compliance with open meeting requirements in the Ethics Act and informed that a caucus meeting would not meet the requirements triggering open meetings requirements. Also directed the inquirers to the Uniform Rules in accordance with 24.60.037(e): In cases where there are conflicts between these guidelines and the Uniform Rules adopted by the Alaska State Legislature, the Uniform Rules prevail.

Press Inquiries

Training AS 24.60.150 and .155

Travel/Hospitality AS 24.60.080(c)(4)

- 1. A legislator's staff member asked if the Ethics Committee could provide the organizer of a conference a letter certifying that the legislator's attendance would be acceptable under the Ethics Act.**

Informed the staff member that the committee's past practices would not support issuing a letter to the organizer. Provided the references in AS 24.60 listing acceptable gifts and suggested that the legislator submit those criteria as verification of acceptability. Further, discussed the need for the legislator to determine whether there was a legislative purpose to attend the conference and assess whether information/resources might be presented that would aid in the performance of legislative duties to meet the requirements of AS 24.60.080.

- 2. A legislative staff member asked if they could accept a two-year artist fellowship that provides a \$5000 stipend and travel expenditures, and if acceptance would require a disclosure. The staff member clarified that participation would occur when they were in a leave status, and that the fellowship was not related to their legislative status.**

Informed that participating in the fellowship, which is not related to their legislative status, and while in a leave status was acceptable and would not require a disclosure.

Miscellaneous/General questions

- 1. An issue was raised, by a covered employee, regarding a staff member that did not appear to be working the hours that they were being compensated for during the interim. The issue was brought to the committee's attention for resolution.**

The committee determined that a legislator/supervisor is responsible for ensuring that employees are working hours compensated for during the interim. Concerns about not working hours compensated for should be addressed with the supervisor of the employee in question. The committee's position that this matter is a matter for the legislator/supervisor and not a matter that can or should be addressed by the committee.

- 2. A legislator asked if they could list campaign events on their "official calendar."**

Informed that it is permissible to include campaign appointments on a legislator's calendar. Legislative employees need visibility when scheduling appointments on the legislator's calendar; however, state resources must not be expended in the arrangement of the campaign events.

- 3. A legislative employee asked if members on the Ethics Committee must adhere to the same rules as the Legislative Affairs Agency (LAA). The employee specifically referenced LAA employees being prohibited from protesting, signing petitions or endorsing candidates for office. The employee stated that she has knowledge of a committee member that is very active in protests in their area.**

I informed the employee that I could not comment on internal LAA specific policies or prohibited activities that fall outside of the Ethics Act. I provided the employee with the prohibited activities for public members, committee employees, and contractors (AS 24.60.134). The employee requested access to the complaint process and forms which were provided.

- 4. A legislator's staff inquired whether it would be acceptable for the legislator to use their elected title when making a nomination for a "chamber award."**

After reviewing statute, Advisory Opinions, and previous informal guidance, the staff member was advised that use of the elected title would be acceptable.

- 5. A legislator's staff asked whether the spouse of a legislator can be hired and work in another legislator's office.**

Informed the staff that the spouse could not be employed during the session in the house in which the legislator is a member. AS 24.60.090 Nepotism was provided to the inquirer.

January 15, 2026, Full Committee Meeting

Agenda Item 12d

Staffing Workload and Focus Areas

BACKGROUND: The following is provided to highlight the value and the capacity provided by the addition of Jamie's position. The projects and outcomes that have been possible, but not limited to, include:

Document review/organization

1. A 100% review of the documents retained in the "saferoom" of the office has been completed. This review identified massive amount of duplicative and triplicate documents, drafts, and public source documents (news articles). Careful consideration was given to proper retention and still resulted in shredding of six, 64-gallon receptacles of paperwork.
2. During the cataloguing of the office files, specific attention was given to ensure that electronic copies of the retained documents are stored on the shared drive.
3. Review of the files identified numerous (over 60) audio cassettes of committee meetings prior to 2004. Those cassettes have been associated with the appropriate agendas and minutes in the files.
4. Complaints, meeting minutes/agendas, and other documents have been organized chronologically, and filed to facilitate location and research.
5. Meetings were held with the Legislative Library and State Archivist to develop a retention/destruction schedule specific to the Ethics Committee. This work is still ongoing. A finalized retention schedule will be prepared and briefed to the committee at a future date. Once accepted that retention schedule will be incorporated into the Rules of Procedure.

Office procedural upgrades

1. Development of committee member friendly processes are ongoing. The Legislative Change document in the meeting packet is an example of this effort (thank you Jamie). The staff is working to develop formats that are more easily understood when briefing complex issues.
2. The process for sharing disclosures for publication in the journals for the House, Senate, and posting on the Ethics webpage is being reviewed and streamlined. The current process is very cumbersome, duplicative and time-consuming for the committee staff and staff in Juneau. Leg IT is participating in the review and restructuring of the process.

3. Standardization/templating of office documents such as Scope of Investigations, dismissal letters, probable cause letters, public notices of committee decisions, are being initiated. Currently, significant time is spent researching for appropriate formats for these types of documents. There is significant difference between the different documents. The goal is to have a standardized format indicating what information is required by document type.
4. The current Ethics Committee webpage is not well organized, nor is it user friendly. As priorities permit, the webpage will be reorganized to facilitate covered employees and the public's use of the webpage.

ACTION BY COMMITTEE:

No action required. This update is provided for the committee's information.

H 12-07 Former Representative Alan Dick Fine Payment Status

UPDSTATE: On January 9, 2026, the Ethics Office received a check for \$1,100 from Former Representative Alan Dick. The fine is fully paid.

Current as of November 12, 2025

BACKGROUND

On August 21, 2013, the Ethics Committee found probable cause in parts of Complaint H 12-07 against Representative Alan Dick. Corrective action recommended was reimbursement of improperly received benefits and the costs associated with investigating the complaint, totaling \$17,995.03, to be paid by September 1, 2014. See Complaint H 12-07 decision for more details.

Reimbursement payments commenced prior to September 1, 2014. The reimbursement plan was later amended to allow additional time for repayment. Alan Dick continued making payments of between \$100 and \$300 every few months until June 2024. No payments have been received since that time. Total amount owed is \$1,100.

The Ethics Office does not have current contact information for Alan Dick. The contact for the repayment is Alan Dick's daughter. Emails were sent to her at least three times since June 2024, and she was notified at least twice by phone. She always responds with assurance that the situation will be addressed and yet no payments are received.

NOTES

Complaint Decision H 12-07 sets out a course of action if Alan Dick fails to comply with the decision:

If Representative Dick fails to comply with the timetable stipulated for corrective action as defined in this opinion, the committee may formally charge him as provided in AS 24.60.170(g) or may refer the matter to the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives may take action to enforce the corrective action or may decline to take action and refer the matter to the committee. In either case, the committee may formally charge Representative Dick under AS 24.60.170(h).

(Note: This course of action is only applicable if the subject of the complaint is a current legislator. See applicable statutes below.)

Sec. 24.60.170. Proceedings before the committee; limitations.

(g) If the committee investigation determines that a probable violation of this chapter exists that may be corrected by action of the subject of the complaint and that does not warrant sanctions other than correction, the committee may issue an opinion recommending corrective action. ...If the subject of the complaint agrees to comply with the opinion but later fails to complete the corrective action in a timely manner, the committee may formally charge the person as provided in (h) of this section ...

(h) If the subject of a complaint fails to comply with an opinion and the committee decides under (g) of this section to charge the person, ... The charge shall be served on the person charged, in a manner consistent with the service of summons under the rules of civil procedure, and a copy of the charge shall be sent to the complainant. The person charged may file a responsive pleading to the committee admitting or denying some or all of the allegations of the charge

DISCUSSION

Determine a plan of action with regard to the outstanding fine amount of \$1,100.

Options to consider:

- Dismiss the remainder of the fine amount
- Refer the matter to the proper agency for collection.

ACTION BY THE COMMITTEE

Motion to approve a course of action.

Alaska State Legislature
Select Committee on
Legislative Ethics

1500 W Benson Blvd Suite 220
Anchorage AK 99503
(907) 269-0150
FAX: 269-0152
Email: ethics.committee@akleg.gov

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 220055
Anchorage, AK 99509
Website: <http://ethics.akleg.gov/>

WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY - COMPLAINTS

EXPRESS WAIVER

COMPLAINT _____

Pursuant to AS 24.60.170(l)

AS 24.60.170(l), Complaints

Proceedings of committee relating to complaints before it are confidential until the committee determines that there is probable cause to believe that a violation of this chapter has occurred. Except to the extent that the confidentiality provisions are waived by the subject of the complaint, the person filing a complaint shall keep confidential the fact that the person has filed a complaint under this section as well as the contents of the complaint filed. The complaint and all documents produced or disclosed as a result of the committee investigation are confidential and not subject to inspection by the public. ... All meetings of the committee before determination of probable cause are closed to the public and to legislators who are not members of the committee. ... The confidentiality provisions of this subsection may be waived by the subject of the complaint.

I, _____, freely and voluntarily waive confidentiality of the complaint process and would like all further proceedings conducted in a public forum.

Signature

Date

STATE OF ALASKA
Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

WAIVER OF COMPLAINT CONFIDENTIALITY

Rules of Procedure, Sec 14(e)(1) Waiver of Confidentiality by Subject of Complaint

(e) WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY BY SUBJECT OF COMPLAINT:

(1) General Information. Under the complaint provisions outlined in AS 24.60.170, the subject of a complaint may waive confidentiality of proceedings at any point in the proceedings under AS 24.60.170 or at the close of the proceedings.

(A) The committee reserves discretion to determine which documents are subject to public inspection. The committee will not release investigative files, notes from deliberations held in confidential sessions or documents produced by legal counsel, protected by attorney-client privilege, unless the committee reviews the materials, removes any information that would infringe upon the constitutional right of privacy of an individual and formally adopts a motion to release the identified materials.

(B) The subject may not waive the committee's duty of confidentiality under AS 24.60.170. The subject of a complaint may waive confidentiality only for those materials and proceedings pertaining to him or her. The subject may not waive confidentiality for others, including those involved or assisting in the committee's investigation of the complaint.

(2) Types of Confidentiality Waivers.

(A) Express Waiver – The subject of a complaint shall be provided with a Waiver of Confidentiality form explaining the nature and extent of the right to confidentiality of the complaint process. The form shall also include an express waiver statement indicating the subject freely and voluntarily waives the right to confidentiality proceedings and would like all further proceedings to be conducted in a public forum. If the subject chooses to expressly waive confidentiality, the waiver statement must be signed and dated.

(3) Waiver of Confidentiality Before or After a Decision by the Committee.

(A) Confidentiality Waived Prior to a Decision by the Committee.

(1) The committee will treat any proceedings related to the complaint consistent with the provisions of AS 24.60.170(m) in that meetings of the committee be public, and documents presented at the meeting and motions filed in connection with the meeting are subject to public inspection.

(2) After deliberations and vote in executive session, pursuant to AS 24.60.170(f), the committee will reconvene in public session. The motion approved in executive session stating a probable cause violation(s) of AS 24.60 or a dismissal of the charge(s) will be read. The statement will include an affirmation indicating the decision was by a majority vote of the committee.

(B) Confidentiality Waived After a Decision by the Committee.

The committee will release copies of all the following documents contingent upon the confidentiality conditions outlined in (e)(1)(A) and (e)(1)B), including:

- 1) Public documents which are part of the investigative file e.g., reports filed with the Alaska Public Offices Commission.
- 2) Materials submitted to the committee by the subject of the complaint.
- 3) The formal complaint, with deletions if necessary, accompanying documents and correspondence from the complainant.
- 4) The resolution identifying the Scope of Investigation.
- 5) Correspondence from the committee to the subject of the complaint and/or the complainant.
- 6) The public decision previously issued by the committee.

I have read the information about waiving complaint confidentiality and I understand the nature and extent of expressly waiving confidentiality.

Signature

Date

Alaska State Legislature
Select Committee on
Legislative Ethics

1500 W Benson Blvd Suite 220
Anchorage AK 99503
(907) 269-0150
FAX: 269-0152
Email: ethics.committee@akleg.gov

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 220055
Anchorage, AK 99509
Website: <http://ethics.akleg.gov/>

WAIVER OF CONFIDENTIALITY - COMPLAINTS

EXPRESS WAIVER

COMPLAINT(s) _____

I have read and understand the confidentiality provisions contained in AS 24.60.170(l).

Initials

I have read and understand the and understand the Waiver of Confidentiality provisions as specified in Rules of Procedure Section 14(e) paragraphs (1), (2)(A), and (3).

Initials

I understand that the Ethics Committee staff is available to clarify or assist me with any questions regarding the provisions/requirements of AS 24.60.170(l) or Rules of Procedure Section 14.(e).

Initials

I, _____, freely and voluntarily waive confidentiality of the complaint process and would like all further proceedings conducted in a public forum.

Signature

Date