

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009**

**SENATE BILL 136
RATIFIED BILL**

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR FOUR-YEAR STAGGERED TERMS OF OFFICE FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE AND TO AMEND THE TIMING OF ETHICS TRAINING FOR LEGISLATORS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 120-99 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-99. Creation; composition.

(a) ~~The Legislative Ethics Committee is created and shall consist of 12 members, six Senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, among them three from a list of six submitted by the Majority Leader and three from a list of six submitted by the Minority Leader, and six members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, among them three from a list of six submitted by the Majority Leader and three from a list of six submitted by the Minority Leader.~~ House. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint three members from a list of nominees submitted by the majority leader of the Senate and three members from a list of nominees submitted by the minority leader of the Senate. The Speaker of the House shall appoint three members from a list of nominees submitted by the majority leader of the House and three members from a list of nominees submitted by the minority leader of the House. The nominating majority or minority leader shall submit to the person making the appointment a list of twice the number of vacancies on the Committee that are to be filled from that leader's nominees.

(b) ~~The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House as the appointing officers shall each designate a cochair of the Legislative Ethics Committee from the respective officer's appointees.~~ appointees to serve as cochair for the current General Assembly, and until the cochair's successor is designated. The cochair appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall preside over the Legislative Ethics Committee during the odd-numbered year, and the cochair appointed by the Speaker of the House shall preside in the even-numbered year. However, a cochair may preside at anytime during the absence of the presiding cochair or upon the presiding cochair's designation. In the event a cochair is unable to act as cochair on a specific matter before the Legislative Ethics Committee, and so indicates in writing to the appointing officer and the Legislative Ethics Committee, the respective officer shall designate from that officer's appointees a member to serve as cochair for that specific matter.

(c) Repealed by Session Laws 2006-201, s. 8, effective January 1, 2007.

(d) The appointments of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall ensure that the composition of the Legislative Ethics Committee is bipartisan in equal numbers."

SECTION 2. G.S. 120-100 reads as rewritten:

"§ 120-100. Term of office; vacancies.

(a) ~~Appointments to the Legislative Ethics Committee shall be made immediately after the convening of the regular session of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years, and appointees shall serve until the expiration of their then-current terms as members of the General Assembly.~~ years. The term of office for members of the Legislative Ethics Committee shall be four years from the date of the convening of the General Assembly in which the member is appointed to the Committee. Members shall not serve two consecutive full terms.

(b) A vacancy occurs on the Legislative Ethics Committee when a member resigns or is no longer a member of the General Assembly. A vacancy occurring for any reason during a term shall be filled for the unexpired term by the authority making the appointment which



caused the vacancy, and the person appointed to fill the vacancy shall, if possible, be a member of the same political party as the member who caused the ~~vacancy~~vacancy, from a list of two nominees submitted by that party's leader.

(c) In the event a member of the Legislative Ethics Committee is unable to act on a specific matter before the Legislative Ethics Committee, and so indicates in writing to the appointing officer and the Legislative Ethics Committee, the appointing officer may appoint another member of the respective chamber from a list of two members submitted by the majority leader or minority leader who nominated the member who is unable to act on the matter to serve as a member of the Legislative Ethics Committee for the specific matter only. If on any specific matter, the number of members of the Legislative Ethics Committee who are unable to act on a specific matter exceeds four members, the appropriate appointing officer shall appoint other members of the General Assembly to serve as members of the Legislative Ethics Committee for that specific matter only."

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding G.S. 120-100(a) as amended in Section 2 of this act, legislators appointed as members of the Legislative Ethics Committee for the 2009 General Assembly shall serve initial terms as follows:

- (1) Two senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the Senate and one senator appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon the recommendation of the majority leader of the Senate shall be designated by the President Pro Tempore as having a term of two years. Two senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon the recommendation of the majority leader of the Senate and one senator appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the Senate shall be designated by the President Pro Tempore as having a term of four years.
- (2) Two representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the House and one representative appointed by the Speaker of the House upon the recommendation of the majority leader of the House shall be designated by the Speaker as having a term of two years. Two representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House upon the recommendation of the majority leader of the House and one representative appointed by the Speaker of the House upon the recommendation of the minority leader of the House shall be designated by the Speaker as having a term of four years.

SECTION 4. G.S. 138A-14(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) The Commission, jointly with the Committee, shall make basic ethics education and awareness presentations to all legislators and legislative employees upon their election, reelection, appointment, or employment and shall offer periodic refresher presentations as the Commission and the Committee deem appropriate. Every legislator ~~and legislative employee~~ shall participate in an ethics presentation approved by the Commission and Committee within ~~three~~two months of either the convening of the General Assembly to which the legislator is elected or within two months of the legislator's appointment, whichever is later. ~~legislative employee's election, reelection, appointment, or~~ Every legislative employee shall participate in an ethics presentation approved by the Commission and Committee within three months of employment, and every legislative employee shall attend refresher ethics education presentations at least every two years thereafter, in a manner as the Commission and Committee deem appropriate."

SECTION 5. This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 19th day of March,

2009.

Walter H. Dalton
President of the Senate

William L. Wainwright
Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives

Beverly E. Perdue
Governor

Approved _____m. this _____ day of _____, 2009