

THE GEORGIA SENATE

CONDUCT OF MEMBERS

RULES,

CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS,

AND STATUTES



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RULES OF THE SENATE
2017-2018 TERM
SELECTED PORTIONS

JUDGE OF ELECTIONS, RETURNS, AND QUALIFICATIONS; EXPULSION

9-1.2(b) Contempt; Disorderly Conduct

(b) The Senate shall be the judge of the election, returns, and qualifications of its members and shall have power to punish them for disorderly behavior or misconduct by censure, fine, imprisonment, or expulsion; but no member shall be expelled except by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the house to which such member belongs. (Ga. Const., art. III, sec. IV, par. VII.)

DECORUM AND CONDUCT GENERALLY

9-1.1 Senatorial Conduct

When the Senate is in session, Senators shall conduct themselves at all times with dignity and in a manner to insure decorum in the deliberations of the body and shall be called to order by the President for activities to the contrary, including unnecessary conversation which is disruptive to the business of the session and inappropriate dress.

ADMISSION TO THE CHAMBER, ANTEROOM, AND GALLERIES; DECORUM THEREIN

9-1.3(b)-(d) Introductions and Addresses to the Senate

(b) No person or group, other than the Governor or any member of the Georgia Congressional Delegation, shall be allowed to address the Senate except at the will of the President.

(c) Senators may introduce or recognize persons or groups at any time before the Third Reading and Consideration of General Bills and Resolutions unless otherwise decided by the President.

(d) The President may permit Senators to bring persons on the floor of the Senate for recognition or photographs at his or her discretion and under any terms as he or she shall decide. Senators wishing to bring persons on the floor for recognition shall notify the Secretary of the Senate as soon as possible. The Secretary of the Senate shall develop, at the direction of the President of the Senate, policies and forms to implement this paragraph.

9-1.4 Persons Entitled to Admission to the Senate During Session

(a) No person shall be allowed to enter upon the floor of the Senate when the Senate is in session except:

- (1) Senators and officers thereof,
- (2) members of the House and House officers,
- (3) the Governor of the State,
- (4) the Lieutenant Governor,
- (5) staff members of the Secretary of the Senate, Clerk of the House, and the Office of Legislative Counsel,
- (6) former Senators, except those registered as lobbyists or who are presently employed by the State,
- (7) staff members of the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Office of the President Pro Tempore, the Office of the Majority Leader, the Officer of the Minority Leader, the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office, the Senate Research Office, and the Senate Press Office,
- (8) such others as permitted by the President.

(b) No person shall be admitted on the floor of the Senate or in the South Anteroom who is engaged in lobbying or who is attempting to influence legislation.

(c) No person shall be admitted on the floor of the Senate who is engaged in lobbying or who is attempting to influence legislation during the 15 minutes prior to the time of convening and during the 15 minutes after adjournment and during any period of recess.

9-1.6(a)&(b) Secretaries, Interns and Aides

(a) Secretaries and aides shall be admitted on the floor of the Senate for the purpose of delivering and receiving communications to and from Senators. They shall not remain on the Senate floor to perform work for any Senator, block the aisles, nor be seated in the Senate Chamber. They shall communicate only with the Senator for whom they work or with whom they have official business.

(b) Each Senator may select an aide (not paid by the Senate) by designating in writing his or her name to the Secretary of the Senate; this aide shall not be changed during the session except by permission of the Committee on Administrative Affairs. No intern may be designated as an aide by a Senator. The aide provided for in this paragraph shall be issued an identifying badge, but shall not come on the floor of the Senate while the Senate is in session.

9-1.10 Spouses, Families, and Visitors

(a) Spouses and families of Senators may be seated in the left front (facing the rostrum) of the Senate Chamber in chairs provided for them.

(b) Any Senator may bring a person in the rear alcove (between the main door and the rail) of the Senate Chamber for a period of not more than five minutes if the Senator remains with him or her during that time. Aides and staff shall not loiter in this area.

9-1.11 North Anteroom of the Chamber

From 8 A.M. until adjournment each day, Senators, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the staff of the Lieutenant Governor and President Pro Tempore ONLY shall be allowed in the North Anteroom of the Chamber.

9-1.12 Senator's Seats

No one shall ever sit in a Senator's seat when the Senate is in session except with permission of the Senator who is assigned that seat.

9-1.13 Smoking, Eating, Use of Cellular Phones Prohibited

There shall be no smoking, eating, use of cellular telephones, or reading of newspapers and other materials not pertinent to legislation in the Senate Chamber while the Senate is in session.

9-1.14 Use of Computers on the Senate Floor

A Senator shall use his or her computer only for legislative business, provided that this shall not prohibit the Senator from using the computer at such times for purposes of ordinary and necessary communications with his or her home and business. Maintenance and repair of Senators' computers shall not be conducted on the floor of the Senate while the Senate is in session.

9-1.15 Etiquette in the Chamber

(a) No person shall pass between the Chair and a Senator while he or she is speaking in the well.

(b) No one other than a member of the Senate may use the center aisle while the Senate is in session unless permitted by the Sergeant at Arms.

ATTENDANCE

1-2.2 Excused Absence

(a) A motion to excuse a Senator from voting must be made before the Senate divides, or before the roll call is commenced, and it shall be decided without debate, except that the Senator making the motion must briefly state the reason why, in his or her opinion, it should prevail.

(b) All Senate Conference Committee members shall be excused from voting during meetings of the Conference Committee. The excuse shall be entered in the Journal if the Conference Committee member notifies the Secretary of the actual time of the meeting before leaving the Chamber.

2-3.3 Attendance

(a) Every member of a committee shall be in attendance during each of its meetings.

(b) Failure to attend three (3) consecutive meetings, unless excused from attendance in the Senate on those days as provided in these Rules or unless he or she has filed a statement pursuant to Rule 2-1.7(f), shall be cause for removal from the committee by the Committee on Assignments.

TRAVEL

1-2.4 Travel and Reimbursement

(a) No member of the Senate shall engage in any travel at State expense outside the State of Georgia unless such travel is first approved in writing by the Committee on Administrative Affairs. The person requesting such approval shall state in writing the places to be visited, the dates, and the purposes, which shall be directly relevant to legislative duties.

(b) Prior to any disbursement by the Legislative Fiscal Officer, there shall be on file with said Fiscal Officer a copy of the approval by the Senate Administrative Affairs Committee, and the person requesting reimbursement shall submit an itemized listing of all expenses claimed hereunder.

STANDARDS OF ETHICAL AND PROPER CONDUCT (PART FOUR OF SECTION ONE)

1-4.1 Personal Financial Gain

- (a) Senators and Senate staff shall refrain from using government positions to attain personal financial gain.
- (b) Senators and staff shall not use public resources or personnel for the purpose of conducting personal or private business activity. Ordinary and necessary communications which Senators and staff must conduct with their homes and business interests while serving in their public capacities are permitted.
- (c) Senators shall not seek, accept, use, allocate, grant, or award public funds for any purpose other than as approved by law.
- (d) No Senator shall vote upon any question if the Senator or any member of the Senator's immediate family has a direct pecuniary interest in the result of such vote which interest is distinct, unique or peculiar to the Senator or the Senator's immediate family.

1-4.2 Campaign Contributions

- (a) No Senator or staff shall solicit a campaign contribution in a state office building. Senators shall not operate political campaigns or operate political fund raising campaigns from state office buildings which have not been leased or rented for such purposes.
- (b) Senators shall not agree to, or threaten to withhold, political action or constituent services as a result of a person's decision to provide or not to provide a political contribution, charitable contribution, or support.

1-4.3 Conflicts of Interest

- (a) Senators and staff shall avoid financial conflicts of interest and close economic associations where official action or decisions are motivated not by public duty but by economic self-interest or association. "Financial conflicts of interest and close economic associations" are defined as those financial interests or interests arising from close economic associations with other persons or entities which are so material, direct, distinct, unique, and peculiar to the Senator or staff that it might reasonably be expected that impartial official judgment could not be exercised.
- (b) No Senator or staff shall seek, accept, or retain employment which: makes it unreasonably difficult to fulfill legislative obligations; requires the disclosure or use of nonpublic or confidential information acquired in the course of legislative service; requires

improper use of government relationships or the prestige associated with legislative offices; or will require the Senator or staff to compromise any other ethical or legal duty.

1-4.4 Special Treatment; Acceptance of Things of Value

(a) No Senator or staff, acting as an attorney or representative of another, shall seek or accept any special treatment not otherwise approved by law or judicial order because of his or her legislative role.

(b) No Senator or staff shall accept anything of value when such thing of value is offered with the understanding that official action will be taken or withheld by a Senator or staff in consideration of acceptance of that which is offered. Any offer made which is conditioned upon the taking or withholding of official action shall immediately be reported in writing to the Chairman of the Ethics Committee. (O.C.G.A. 16-10-2).

1-4.5 Crimes of Moral Turpitude and Controlled Substances

No Senator or staff shall knowingly commit any crime involving moral turpitude or knowingly possess, use, manufacture, or distribute any controlled substance, dangerous drug, marijuana, or alcoholic beverage in violation of any state or federal law or any county or municipal ordinance. Conviction of any such crime, the acceptance of a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to any such crime, or imposition of payment of a criminal or administrative penalty for any such crime shall constitute a violation of this rule.

1-4.6 Sexual Harassment

(a) The Senate is committed to providing a healthy and appropriate work environment for legislators, legislative employees, interns, aides, and other state employees which is free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated.

(b) Senators and staff are expected to discourage sexual harassment in the workplace and at events, professional meetings, seminars, or any activities that involve legislative business.

(c) "Sexual harassment" means making unwelcome sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

(1) submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;

(2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting the employee; or

- (3) such conduct interferes with the employee's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.
- (d) The provisions of this rule apply to Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers.
- (e) Complaints may be brought by Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers under the provisions of Rule 1-4.10; provided, however, that complaints against staff (other than officers of the Senate), aides, or interns shall be brought in accordance with the Georgia General Assembly Employee Handbook, November 2013 edition. Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers will be subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense. A supervisor who does not take appropriate action when the supervisor knows or has reason to suspect that harassment is occurring is also subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense.

1-4.7 Discriminatory Harassment

- (a) The Senate is committed to providing a healthy and appropriate work environment for legislators, legislative employees, interns, aides, and other state employees which is free from discriminatory harassment. Discriminatory harassment will not be tolerated.
- (b) "Discriminatory harassment" means unwelcome conduct that is based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy), national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information where:
 - (1) enduring the offensive conduct becomes a condition of continued employment; or
 - (2) the conduct is severe or pervasive enough to create a work environment that a reasonable person would consider intimidating, hostile, or abusive.
- (c) The provisions of this rule apply to Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers.
- (d) Complaints may be brought by Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers under the provisions of Rule 1-4.10; provided, however, that complaints against staff (other than officers of the Senate), aides, or interns shall be brought in accordance with the Georgia General Assembly Employee Handbook, November 2013 edition. Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers will be subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense. A supervisor who does not take appropriate action when the supervisor knows or has reason to suspect that harassment is occurring is also subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense.

1-4.8 Standard of Conduct

All contact with constituents, staff, lobbyists, representatives of the media, and others interested or involved in the process of government shall be conducted in a courteous, professional, and discreet manner.

ETHICS COMMITTEE: COMPLAINTS AND PROCEEDINGS

1-4.10 Ethics Complaints

(a)(1) A complaint alleging a violation of any section of Part Four of Section One of these Rules may only be brought by a Senator or Senate staff, aides, or interns. Such complaint shall be initiated by filing a complaint with the Secretary of the Senate specifically describing the nature of the alleged violation and the party or parties involved and shall be signed by the complainant and verified under oath. If the complainant is directly supervised by the Secretary of the Senate and he or she has a complaint against the Secretary of the Senate, then such complaint shall be filed with the President Pro Tempore. The person receiving such complaint shall maintain the original complaint in confidence and shall promptly deliver a copy of the complaint to the Chairman of the Committee on Ethics, unless the subject of the complaint is the Chairman of the Committee and in such event such complaint shall be delivered to the Vice Chairman of the Committee on Ethics who shall oversee all matters pertaining to such complaint and shall act as Chairman of the Committee on Ethics for such complaint. The Committee on Ethics (hereinafter in this Rule "the Committee") shall promptly serve the named respondent with a copy of the complaint by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, or electronically if agreed to by the respondent.

(2) Any complaint under Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. shall be brought, filed, and served as provided in said part.

(b) The Committee may initiate an ethics investigation on its own initiative by majority vote of the Committee. If the Committee issues a complaint, it shall do so within a reasonable time following the Committee's initiation of such investigation by a majority of the Committee signing a complaint that specifically describes the nature of the alleged violation and the party or parties involved. The Committee shall promptly serve the respondent with a copy of the complaint and service of such complaint shall be by personal service or by certified mail, return receipt requested, or electronically if agreed to by the respondent.

(c) Any complaint brought by or before the Committee and all records and information related to such complaint shall remain confidential until the Committee has determined

that reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of Part Four of Section One of these Rules or any violation of Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. occurred. If the Committee determines that reasonable cause to believe that such violation does not exist, the complaint shall be dismissed and all records and information related to such complaint shall remain confidential.

(d) After the Chairman receives a complaint, either pursuant to this Rule or pursuant to Code Section 45-10-91, the Committee or a subcommittee thereof appointed by the Chairman shall preliminarily investigate the complaint.

(e) Upon completion of a preliminary investigation, which shall include an assessment of jurisdiction, the individuals conducting the investigation shall prepare a written report detailing their findings and shall present such report to the members of the Committee. Such report shall remain confidential except as provided in paragraph (c). The Committee shall determine whether it has jurisdiction over the complaint. If the Committee determines it does not have jurisdiction over the complaint, it shall dismiss the complaint with written notice to the complainant and respondent and such matter shall remain confidential except as provided in paragraph (c). If the Committee dismisses the complaint for lack of jurisdiction, it may proceed pursuant to paragraph (b). If the Committee determines it has jurisdiction, but does not find that reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of Part Four of Section One of these Rules or any violation of Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. occurred, it shall dismiss the complaint with written notice to the complainant and the respondent and such matter shall remain confidential. If the Committee determines it has jurisdiction and finds reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of Part Four of Section One of these Rules or any violation of Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. occurred, the Committee may negotiate a settlement with the respondent or set the matter for a hearing.

(f) Any negotiated settlement shall be a matter of public record and shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate.

(g) If a negotiated settlement is not reached, the Committee will hold open hearings, taking any relevant evidence that addresses the complaint. The Committee may require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of materials which the Committee deems advisable and may administer oaths and affirmations. The respondent shall receive reasonable notice of any hearing and shall be entitled to receive within a reasonable time before the hearing copies of all material before the Committee that is not otherwise exempt from disclosure under Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A.; to secure counsel of his or her choosing; and to examine any witnesses who may be called by the Committee to appear at any hearing. The respondent shall also have the right to call witnesses and present evidence at any hearing. The Committee shall assure that all hearings are recorded. The Committee shall have the burden of proof. Both the

Committee and the respondent shall be entitled to rebuttal. Upon completion of such hearing, the Committee shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations of action. The Committee's report and recommended action shall be a matter of public record and shall be filed with the Secretary of the Senate.

(h) The Committee must find "clear and convincing evidence" in order to conclude that a violation of Part Four of Section One of these Rules or a violation of Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A. has occurred.

(i) If the Committee finds a Senator in violation of Part Four of Section One of these Rules or of Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., it may recommend to the Senate a sanction or penalty including a letter of reprimand or any penalty set forth in the Georgia Constitution under Article III, Section IV, Paragraph VII. The Senate may independently initiate action against a Senator pursuant to the Georgia Constitution, art. III, sec. IV, par. VII.

(j) If the Committee finds a Senate staff member, aide, intern or volunteer in violation of Part Four of Section One of these Rules, it may recommend a sanction or penalty, up to and including dismissal, to the Administrative Affairs Committee. The Administrative Affairs Committee may implement the recommendation of the Committee or take alternate action, including dismissing the complaint, issuing a lesser penalty or issuing a harsher penalty than that recommended by the Committee.

(k) Persons who report to the Committee regarding an alleged violation of Part Four of Section One of these Rules, or any other government entity regarding such violation, shall not be subjected to reprisal, retaliation, harassment, discrimination, or ridicule by Senators or staff, nor shall the confidentiality provisions contained herein be abridged.

ETHICS COMMITTEE; OPINIONS AND ADVICE; EDUCATION OF MEMBERS ON PROPER CONDUCT

1-4.9 Opinions and Advice Regarding the Senate Rules

A Senator or staff member may request in writing the opinion or advice of the Committee on Ethics with regard to interpretation of any section of Part Four of Section One. The Committee on Ethics shall expeditiously respond in writing to such request. All requests for opinions or advice or any opinion or advice given shall be confidential.

1-4.11 Distribution of Rules; Educational Seminars

The Secretary of the Senate shall distribute a copy of Senate Rules to all Senators and staff. The Committee on Ethics shall, when deemed appropriate, conduct seminars or other

educational programs designed to inform Senators, staff, or other interested parties of the provisions of these Rules, especially Part Four of Section One, as well as statutes relating to ethical standards and conduct, sexual harassment, and discrimination.

COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONING

2-1.5(c) Committee Powers and Responsibilities

(c) A committee cannot circumvent the provisions of the rules governing committees by suspending any rule or part thereof.

2-1.7(c) Committee Meetings

(c) No standing or interim committee or subcommittee of the Senate shall officially meet at any place within the State where any citizen of the State is denied admittance on the basis of religion, race, creed, nationality, or sex or on property belonging to any private club, organization, or association in which any citizen is denied membership on the basis of religion, race, creed, nationality, or sex; except a correctional facility may be exempt if security requirements demand.

2-1.9 Attendance and Testimony by Author of Bill

The committee shall not vote on any bill until the author or his or her designee has been given the opportunity to appear and be heard. Each committee shall provide in writing the details for carrying out the provisions of this paragraph.

2-1.11 Audit Subcommittee of Rules

The Senate Rules Committee shall designate in writing an audit subcommittee to examine and review, not less than once every two months, legislative expenditures, including all vouchers submitted by members of the Senate, as provided for in subsection (e) of Code Section 28-1-8, for which the members have received payment. The subcommittee is authorized to issue reports of its examination and review.

POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE; QUESTIONS OF PRIVILEGE

8-1.7(c) Limitation on Speaking

(c) On all points of personal privilege, individual speeches shall be limited to five minutes, except that after the twentieth (20th) day of a session individual speeches shall be limited to three minutes.

8-1.14 Questions of Privilege

Questions of privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights of the Senate collectively, its safety, dignity, and the integrity of its proceedings; second, the right, reputation, and conduct of Senators individually, in their representative capacity only. Questions of privilege shall have precedence over all other questions. Provided, that when any matter is pending before the Senate, no question of personal privilege shall be acted on until the pending question is disposed of.

TRANSGRESSION OF RULES; PENALTIES

1-4.6(e) Sexual Harassment

(e) Complaints may be brought by Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers under the provisions of Rule 1-4.10; provided, however, that complaints against staff (other than officers of the Senate), aides, or interns shall be brought in accordance with the Georgia General Assembly Employee Handbook, November 2013 edition. Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers will be subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense. A supervisor who does not take appropriate action when the supervisor knows or has reason to suspect that harassment is occurring is also subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense.

1-4.7(d) Discriminatory Harassment

(d) Complaints may be brought by Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers under the provisions of Rule 1-4.10; provided, however, that complaints against staff (other than officers of the Senate), aides, or interns shall be brought in accordance with the Georgia General Assembly Employee Handbook, November 2013 edition. Senators, Senate staff, and Senate aides, interns, and volunteers will be subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense. A supervisor who does not take appropriate action when the supervisor knows or has reason to suspect that harassment is occurring is also subject to sanctions proportionate to the seriousness of the offense.

1-4.10(i) Ethics Complaints

(i) If the Committee finds a Senator in violation of Part Four of Section One of these Rules or of Part 6 of Article 2 of Chapter 10 of Title 45 of the O.C.G.A., it may recommend to the Senate a sanction or penalty including a letter of reprimand or any penalty set forth in the Georgia Constitution under Article III, Section IV, Paragraph VII. The Senate may independently initiate action against a Senator pursuant to the Georgia Constitution, art. III, sec. IV, par. VII.

10-1.1 Circumvention of Rules

No Senator or staff shall knowingly circumvent the clear purpose or intent of laws or any Senate Rule.

ADDRESSING THE SENATE; AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS

8-1.3 Interruptions; When Allowed

No Senator shall address the Senate, or interrogate a Senator who is speaking, except through the President. Should the Senator speaking decline to be interrupted, the President shall cause the Senator desiring to interrogate to be silent.

8-1.10 Usage of Audio-visual Equipment; Visual Aids

(a) The President shall, at his or her discretion and subject to any guidelines as he or she might require, allow the author (first signer) of a bill or the chair of the committee which favorably reported a bill to use audio-visual presentations which are not disruptive to the business of the Senate during debate on such bill. Such usage shall be considered part of the matter of debate and shall count toward any limitations on speaking detailed in Rule 8-1.7. All presentations shall be presented with dignity and shall be presented in a manner to ensure decorum.

(b) Printed visual aids, such as graphs and charts, may be used in the well by the Senator who has been recognized to speak. All visual aids shall be consistent with the dignity and decorum of the Senate, and shall be removed from the well and not displayed further in the Senate chamber after the Senator has relinquished the floor.

PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS

8-1.4 Private Conversations

During any session of the Senate, the members of the Senate shall refrain from audible private conversation that disrupts the business of the Senate.

8-1.5(a) Reference to Private Conversations

(a) No Senator shall refer in debate to any private conversation had with another Senator.

ADDRESSING OTHER MEMBERS

8-1.5(b) Addressing Other Members

(b) Senators speaking shall not call other Senators by name but may designate them by their position on the floor or by the district they represent.

VOTING

2-4.2 Voting in Committee; Duty to Vote; Prohibitions; Exceptions

No member of any committee shall be allowed to vote by proxy; however committee participation and vote via video conference or teleconference may be allowed at the discretion of the Chair in cases of military service. Members may not abstain from voting unless the member or any member of the Senator's immediate family has a direct pecuniary interest in the result of such vote which interest is distinct, unique or peculiar to the Senator or the Senator's immediate family.

(a) No member of any committee shall be allowed to vote by proxy.

(b) No member of any committee shall be permitted to pair his or her vote with another member.

(c) No member of any standing committee shall be permitted to participate in a committee meeting or cast a vote via video conference or teleconference; provided, however, that the chair of a standing committee may permit a member who is prevented from attending a committee meeting in person due to military service to participate and vote via video conference or teleconference.

(d) The chair of an interim special committee to study a specific issue is authorized, at his or her discretion, to permit a member of such committee to participate and to vote via video conference or teleconference.

(e) The chair of a committee may not authorize participation or voting via video conference or teleconference in any meeting, or portion of a meeting, that is closed to the public.

(f) No member of any committee may abstain from voting unless the member or any member of the Senator's immediate family has a direct pecuniary interest in the result of such vote which interest is distinct, unique, or peculiar to the Senator or the Senator's immediate family.

5-1.6 Debate Prohibited During Voting

During a vote on any question, no debate shall be had.

5-1.8 Voting Prohibitions

- (a) No Senator or person shall vote for or attempt to vote for another Senator on any questions. Violation of this Rule shall be deemed to be disorderly behavior and subject to punishment as provided by the Constitution and Rules of the Senate. This Rule cannot be suspended by unanimous consent.
- (b) No pairing of members shall be recognized or allowed as an excuse for not voting.
- (c) In every case where the seat of a Senator is being contested, the sitting Senator and the contestant shall both retire from the Senate before the vote is taken.
- (d) No Senator shall vote upon any question if the Senator or any member of the Senator's immediate family has a direct pecuniary interest in the result of such vote which interest is distinct, unique or peculiar to the Senator or the Senator's immediate family. Unanimous consent to be excused under this rule should be moved verbally.

5-1.9 Explanation of Vote

No member shall be permitted to explain his or her vote during a roll call; however, on all questions, except such as are not debatable, any Senator shall be permitted to explain his or her vote by reducing his or her explanation to writing in no more than two hundred-fifty (250) words. The writing shall not impugn the motives of any other Senator, and if filed with the Secretary of the Senate before the confirmation of the Journal on the day next succeeding such vote, shall be entered on the Journal of that day.

5-1.10(b) No Quorum Present

- (b) When less than a quorum vote on any subject under consideration by the Senate, the President may order the doors of the Senate be closed and the roll of Senators called by the Secretary, or recorded on the electronic roll call system. If it is ascertained that a quorum is present, either by answering to their names or by their presence in the Senate, the refusal of any Senator present to vote, unless excused, shall be deemed a contempt of the Senate.

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

Article I, Section II. Origin and Structure of Government

Paragraph I. Origin and foundation of government. All government, of right, originates with the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole. Public officers are the trustees and servants of the people and are at all times amenable to them.

Paragraph III. Separation of legislative, judicial, and executive powers. The legislative, judicial, and executive powers shall forever remain separate and distinct; and no person discharging the duties of one shall at the same time exercise the functions of either of the others except as herein provided.

Article II, Section II. General Provisions

Paragraph III. Persons not eligible to hold office. No person who is not a registered voter; who has been convicted of a felony involving moral turpitude, unless that person's civil rights have been restored and at least ten years have elapsed from the date of the completion of the sentence without a subsequent conviction of another felony involving moral turpitude; who is a defaulter for any federal, state, county, municipal, or school system taxes required of such officeholder or candidate if such person has been finally adjudicated by a court of competent jurisdiction to owe those taxes, but such ineligibility may be removed at any time by full payment thereof, or by making payments to the tax authority pursuant to a payment plan, or under such other conditions as the General Assembly may provide by general law; or who is the holder of public funds illegally shall be eligible to hold any office or appointment of honor or trust in this state. Additional conditions of eligibility to hold office for persons elected on a write-in vote and for persons holding offices or appointments of honor or trust other than elected offices created by this Constitution may be provided by law.

Article II, Section III. Suspension and Removal of Public Officials

Paragraph I. Procedures for and effect of suspending or removing public officials upon felony indictment. (a) As used in this Paragraph, the term "public official" means the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the State School Superintendent, the Commissioner of Insurance, the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Labor, and any member of the General Assembly.

(b) Upon indictment for a felony by a grand jury of this state or by the United States, which felony indictment relates to the performance or activities of the office of any public official, the Attorney General or district attorney shall transmit a certified copy of the indictment to the Governor or, if the indicted public official is the Governor, to the Lieutenant Governor who shall, subject to

subparagraph (d) of this Paragraph, appoint a review commission. If the indicted public official is the Governor, the commission shall be composed of the Attorney General, the Secretary of State, the State School Superintendent, the Commissioner of Insurance, the Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Commissioner of Labor. If the indicted public official is the Attorney General, the commission shall be composed of three other public officials who are not members of the General Assembly. If the indicted public official is not the Governor, the Attorney General, or a member of the General Assembly, the commission shall be composed of the Attorney General and two other public officials who are not members of the General Assembly. If the indicted public official is a member of the General Assembly, the commission shall be composed of the Attorney General and one member of the Senate and one member of the House of Representatives. If the Attorney General brings the indictment against the public official, the Attorney General shall not serve on the commission. In place of the Attorney General, the Governor shall appoint a retired Supreme Court Justice or a retired Court of Appeals Judge. The commission shall provide for a speedy hearing, including notice of the nature and cause of the hearing, process for obtaining witnesses, and the assistance of counsel. Unless a longer period of time is granted by the appointing authority, the commission shall make a written report within 14 days. If the commission determines that the indictment relates to and adversely affects the administration of the office of the indicted public official and that the rights and interests of the public are adversely affected thereby, the Governor or, if the Governor is the indicted public official, the Lieutenant Governor shall suspend the public official immediately and without further action pending the final disposition of the case or until the expiration of the officer's term of office, whichever occurs first. During the term of office to which such officer was elected and in which the indictment occurred, if a nolle prosequi is entered, if the public official is acquitted, or if after conviction the conviction is later overturned as a result of any direct appeal or application for a writ of certiorari, the officer shall be immediately reinstated to the office from which he was suspended. While a public official is suspended under this Paragraph and until initial conviction by the trial court, the officer shall continue to receive the compensation from his office. After initial conviction by the trial court, the officer shall not be entitled to receive the compensation from his office. If the officer is reinstated to office, he shall be entitled to receive any compensation withheld under the provisions of this Paragraph.

(c) Unless the Governor is the public officer under suspension, for the duration of any suspension under this Paragraph, the Governor shall appoint a replacement officer except in the case of a member of the General Assembly. If the Governor is the public officer under suspension, the provisions of Article V, Section I, Paragraph V of this Constitution shall apply as if the Governor were temporarily disabled. Upon a final conviction with no appeal or review pending, the office shall be declared vacant and a successor to that office shall be chosen as provided in this Constitution or the laws enacted in pursuance thereof.

(d) No commission shall be appointed for a period of 14 days from the day the indictment is received. This period of time may be extended by the Governor. During this period of time, the indicted public official may, in writing, authorize the Governor or, if the Governor is the indicted public official, the Lieutenant Governor to suspend him from office. Any such voluntary suspension shall be subject to the same conditions for review, reinstatement, or declaration of vacancy as are provided in this Paragraph for a nonvoluntary suspension.

(e) After any suspension is imposed under this Paragraph, the suspended public official may petition the appointing authority for a review. The Governor or, if the indicted public official is the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor may reappoint the commission to review the suspension. The commission shall make a written report within 14 days. If the commission recommends that the public official be reinstated, he shall immediately be reinstated to office.

(f) The report and records of the commission and the fact that the public official has or has not been suspended shall not be admissible in evidence in any court for any purpose. The report and record of the commission shall not be open to the public.

(g) The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply to any indictment handed down prior to January 1, 1985.

(h) If a public official who is suspended from office under the provisions of this Paragraph is not first tried at the next regular or special term following the indictment, the suspension shall be terminated and the public official shall be reinstated to office. The public official shall not be reinstated under this subparagraph if he is not so tried based on a continuance granted upon a motion made only by the defendant.

Paragraph II. Suspension upon felony conviction. Upon initial conviction of any public official designated in Paragraph I of this section for any felony in a trial court of this state or the United States, regardless of whether the officer has been suspended previously under Paragraph I of this section, such public official shall be immediately and without further action suspended from office. While a public official is suspended from office under this Paragraph, he or she shall not be entitled to receive the compensation from his or her office. If, during the remainder of the elected official's term of office, the conviction is later overturned as a result of any direct appeal or application for a writ of certiorari, the public official shall be immediately reinstated to the office from which he or she was suspended and shall be entitled to receive any compensation withheld under the provisions of this Paragraph. Unless the Governor is the public official under suspension, for the duration of any suspension under this Paragraph, the Governor shall appoint a replacement official except in the case of a member of the General Assembly. If the public officer under suspension is a member of the Senate or House of Representatives, then a replacement member for the duration of the suspension shall be elected as now or hereafter provided by law, in a manner the same as or similar to the election of a member to fill a vacancy in the General Assembly but to serve only for the duration of the suspension. If the Governor is the public officer under suspension, the provisions of Article V, Section I, Paragraph V of this Constitution shall apply as if the Governor were temporarily disabled. Upon a final conviction with no appeal or review pending, the office shall be declared vacant and a successor to that office shall be chosen as provided in this Constitution or the laws enacted in pursuance thereof. The provisions of this Paragraph shall not apply to any conviction rendered prior to January 1, 1987.

Article III, Section IV.
Organization and Procedure of the General Assembly

Paragraph VII. Election and returns; disorderly conduct. Each house shall be the judge of the election, returns, and qualifications of its members and shall have power to punish them for disorderly behavior or misconduct by censure, fine, imprisonment, or expulsion; but no member shall be expelled except by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the house to which such member belongs.

Paragraph XI. Open meetings. The sessions of the General Assembly and all standing committee meetings thereof shall be open to the public. Either house may by rule provide for exceptions to this requirement.

Article III, Section VII.
Impeachments

Paragraph I. Power to impeach. The House of Representatives shall have the sole power to vote impeachment charges against any executive or judicial officer of this state or any member of the General Assembly.

Paragraph II. Trial of impeachments. The Senate shall have the sole power to try impeachments. When sitting for that purpose, the Senators shall be on oath, or affirmation, and shall be presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Should the Chief Justice be disqualified, then the Presiding Justice shall preside. Should the Presiding Justice be disqualified, then the Senate shall select a Justice of the Supreme Court to preside. No person shall be convicted without concurrence of two-thirds of the members to which the Senate is entitled.

Paragraph III. Judgments in impeachment. In cases of impeachment, judgments shall not extend further than removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit within this state or to receive a pension therefrom, but no such judgment shall relieve any party from any criminal or civil liability.

OFFICIAL CODE OF GEORGIA ANNOTATED

TITLE 9, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE 7
CONTINUANCES
SELECTED PORTIONS OF ARTICLE

9-10-150. Grounds for continuance—Attendance of party or attorney in General Assembly.

A member of the General Assembly who is a party to or the attorney for a party to a case, or any member of the staff of the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives, or the chairperson of the Judiciary Committee or Special Judiciary Committee of the Senate or of the Judiciary Committee or Judiciary, Non-civil Committee of the House of Representatives who is the lead counsel for a party to a case pending in any trial or appellate court or before any administrative agency of this state, shall be granted a continuance and stay of the case. The continuance and stay shall apply to all aspects of the case, including, but not limited to, the filing and serving of an answer to a complaint, the making of any discovery or motion, or of any response to any subpoena, discovery, or motion, and appearance at any hearing, trial, or argument. Unless a shorter length of time is requested by the member, the continuance and stay shall last the length of any regular or extraordinary session of the General Assembly and during the first three weeks following any recess or adjournment including an adjournment sine die of any regular or extraordinary session. A continuance and stay shall also be granted for such other times as the member of the General Assembly or staff member certifies to the court that his or her presence elsewhere is required by his or her duties with the General Assembly. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule of court, or administrative rule or regulation, the time for doing any act in the case which is delayed by the continuance provided by this Code section shall be automatically extended by the same length of time as the continuance or stay covered.

9-10-159. Legislator attending General Assembly excused as witness; deposition in civil case.

Any person summoned as a witness in any case shall be excused by the judge from attending the court by reason of his attendance as a legislator in the General Assembly. In all civil cases it shall be the right of either party thereto to take the deposition, as provided by law, of any person desired to be used as a witness in the case who is a member of the General Assembly when the session of the General Assembly conflicts with the session of the court in which such case is to be tried.

TITLE 15
COURTS
SELECTED PORTIONS OF TITLE

15-12-2. Legislators excused.

Any person summoned to serve as a juror in any court of this state shall be excused from such service during his attendance as a legislator in the General Assembly.

TITLE 16
CRIMES AND OFFENSES
SELECTED PORTIONS OF TITLE

16-8-16. Theft by extortion.

(a) A person commits the offense of theft by extortion when he unlawfully obtains property of or from another person by threatening to:

- (1) Inflict bodily injury on anyone or commit any other criminal offense;
 - (2) Accuse anyone of a criminal offense;
 - (3) Disseminate any information tending to subject any person to hatred, contempt, or ridicule or to impair his credit or business repute;
 - (4) Take or withhold action as a public official or cause an official to take or withhold action;
 - (5) Bring about or continue a strike, boycott, or other collective unofficial action if the property is not demanded or received for the benefit of the group in whose interest the actor purports to act;
- or
- (6) Testify or provide information or withhold testimony or information with respect to another's legal claim or defense.

(b) In a prosecution under this Code section, the crime shall be considered as having been committed in the county in which the threat was made or received or in the county in which the property was unlawfully obtained.

(c) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution based on paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (6) of subsection (a) of this Code section that the property obtained by threat of accusation, exposure, legal action, or other invocation of official action was honestly claimed as restitution or indemnification for harm done in the circumstance to which such accusation, exposure, legal action, or other official action relates or as compensation for property or lawful services.

(d) A person convicted of the offense of theft by extortion shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than ten years.

16-10-1. Violation of oath by public officer.

Any public officer who willfully and intentionally violates the terms of his oath as prescribed by law shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years.

16-10-2. Bribery.

(a) A person commits the offense of bribery when:

- (1) He or she gives or offers to give to any person acting for or on behalf of the state or any political subdivision thereof, or of any agency of either, any benefit, reward, or consideration to which he or she is not entitled with the purpose of influencing him or her in the performance of any act related to the functions of his or her office or employment; or
- (2) A public official, elected or appointed, or an employee of this state or any agency, authority, or entity of the state, or any county or municipality or any agency, authority, or entity thereof, directly or indirectly solicits, receives, accepts, or agrees to receive a thing of value by inducing

the reasonable belief that the giving of the thing will influence his or her performance or failure to perform any official action. A thing of value shall not include:

- (A) Food or beverage consumed at a single meal or event;
- (B) Legitimate salary, benefits, fees, commissions, or expenses associated with a recipient's nonpublic business, employment, trade, or profession;
- (C) An award, plaque, certificate, memento, or similar item given in recognition of the recipient's civic, charitable, political, professional, or public service;
- (D) Food, beverages, and registration at group events to which all members of an agency, as defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 21-5-30.2, are invited. An agency shall include the Georgia House of Representatives, the Georgia Senate, committees and subcommittees of such bodies, and the governing body of each political subdivision of this state;
- (E) Actual and reasonable expenses for food, beverages, travel, lodging, and registration for a meeting which are provided to permit participation or speaking at the meeting;
- (F) A commercially reasonable loan made in the ordinary course of business;
- (G) Any gift with a value less than \$100.00;
- (H) Promotional items generally distributed to the general public or to public officers;
- (I) A gift from a member of the public officer's immediate family; or
- (J) Food, beverage, or expenses afforded public officers, members of their immediate families, or others that are associated with normal and customary business or social functions or activities; provided, however, that receiving, accepting, or agreeing to receive anything not enumerated in subparagraphs (A) through (J) of this paragraph shall not create the presumption that the offense of bribery has been committed.

(b) A person convicted of the offense of bribery shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 20 years, or both.

16-10-4. Influencing of legislative action by state and local government officers or employees.

(a) Any officer or employee of the state or any agency thereof who asks for or receives anything of value to which he or she is not entitled in return for an agreement to procure or attempt to procure the passage or defeat the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or procure or attempt to procure the approval or disapproval of the same by the Governor, shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both.

(b) Any officer or employee of a political subdivision who asks for or receives anything of value to which he or she is not entitled in return for an agreement to procure or attempt to procure the passage or defeat the passage of any legislation by the legislative body of the political subdivision of which he or she is an officer or employee shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both.

16-10-5. Influencing of officer or employee of state or political subdivision by another officer or employee.

(a) Any officer or employee of the state or any agency thereof who asks for or receives anything of value to which he or she is not entitled in return for an agreement to influence or attempt to influence official action by any other officer or employee of the state or any agency thereof shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both.

(b) Any officer or employee of a political subdivision who asks for or receives anything of value to which he or she is not entitled in return for an agreement to influence or attempt to influence official action by any other officer or employee of that political subdivision shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both.

16-10-8. False official certificates or writings by officers or employees of state and political subdivisions.

An officer or employee of the state or any political subdivision thereof or other person authorized by law to make or give a certificate or other writing who knowingly makes and delivers such a certificate or writing containing any statement which he knows to be false shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years.

16-10-9. Acceptance of office or employment in more than one branch of government.

(a) It shall be unlawful for:

(1) Members of the General Assembly to accept or hold office or employment in the executive branch of the state government or any agency thereof or in the judicial branch of the state government;

(2) Judges of courts of record or their clerks and assistants to accept or hold office or employment in the executive branch of the state government or any agency thereof or in the legislative branch of the state government; or

(3) Officers or employees of the executive branch of the state government to accept or hold office or employment in the legislative or judicial branches of the state government.

(b) A person who knowingly disburses or receives any compensation or money in violation of this Code section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

(c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to apply to any officer or employee of the executive branch who has taken a leave of absence without pay from his post for temporary service as an employee of the legislative branch while it is in session and during the authorized stay-over period.

16-10-20. False statements and writings, concealment of facts, and fraudulent documents in matters within jurisdiction of state or political subdivisions.

A person who knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme, or device a material fact; makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement or representation; or makes or uses any false writing or document, knowing the same to contain any false, fictitious, or

fraudulent statement or entry, in any matter within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of state government or of the government of any county, city, or other political subdivision of this state shall, upon conviction thereof, be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both.

16-10-21. Conspiracy to defraud state or political subdivision.

(a) A person commits the offense of conspiracy to defraud the state when he conspires or agrees with another to commit theft of any property which belongs to the state or to any agency thereof or which is under the control or possession of a state officer or employee in his official capacity. The crime shall be complete when the conspiracy or agreement is effected and an overt act in furtherance thereof has been committed, regardless of whether the theft is consummated. A person convicted of the offense of conspiracy to defraud the state shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years.

(b) A person commits the offense of conspiracy to defraud a political subdivision when he conspires or agrees with another to commit theft of any property which belongs to a political subdivision or to any agency thereof or which is under the control or possession of an officer or employee of a political subdivision in his official capacity. The crime shall be complete when the conspiracy or agreement is effected and an overt act in furtherance thereof has been committed, regardless of whether the theft is consummated. A person convicted of the offense of conspiracy to defraud a political subdivision shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years.

16-10-71. False swearing.

(a) A person to whom a lawful oath or affirmation has been administered or who executes a document knowing that it purports to be an acknowledgment of a lawful oath or affirmation commits the offense of false swearing when, in any matter or thing other than a judicial proceeding, he knowingly and willfully makes a false statement.

(b) A person convicted of the offense of false swearing shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00 or by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years, or both.

16-11-34.1. Preventing or disrupting General Assembly sessions or other meetings of members; unlawful activities within the state capitol or certain Capitol Square buildings.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person recklessly or knowingly to commit any act which may reasonably be expected to prevent or disrupt a session or meeting of the Senate or House of Representatives, a joint session thereof, or any meeting of any standing or interim committee, commission, or caucus of members thereof.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person, other than those persons who are exempt from the provisions of Code Sections 16-11-126 through 16-11-127.2, to enter, occupy, or remain within the state capitol building or any building housing committee offices, committee rooms, or offices of members, officials, or employees of the General Assembly or either house thereof while in the possession of any firearm; knife, as such term is defined in Code Section 16-11-125.1; explosive or incendiary

device or compound; bludgeon; knuckles, whether made from metal, thermoplastic, wood, or other similar material; or any other dangerous or deadly weapon, instrument, or device.

(c) It shall be unlawful for any person purposely or recklessly and without authority of law to obstruct any street, sidewalk, hallway, office, or other passageway in that area designated as Capitol Square by Code Section 50-2-28 in such a manner as to render it impassable without unreasonable inconvenience or hazard or to fail or refuse to remove such obstruction after receiving a reasonable official request or the order of a peace officer to do so.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any person willfully and knowingly to enter or to remain upon the floor of the Senate or the floor of the House of Representatives or within any cloakroom, lobby, or anteroom adjacent to such floor unless such person is authorized, pursuant to the rules of the Senate or House of Representatives or pursuant to authorization given by the Senate or House of Representatives, to enter or remain upon the floor or within such area.

(e) It shall be unlawful for any person willfully and knowingly to enter or to remain in the gallery of the Senate or the gallery of the House of Representatives in violation of rules governing admission to such gallery adopted by the Senate or the House of Representatives or pursuant to authorization given by such body.

(f) It shall be unlawful for any person willfully and knowingly to enter or to remain in any room, chamber, office, or hallway within the state capitol building or any building housing committee offices, committee rooms, or offices of members, officials, or employees of the General Assembly or either house thereof with intent to disrupt the orderly conduct of official business or to utter loud, threatening, or abusive language or engage in any disorderly or disruptive conduct in such buildings or areas.

(g) It shall be unlawful for any person to parade, demonstrate, or picket within the state capitol building or any building housing committee offices, committee rooms, or offices of members, officials, or employees of the General Assembly or either house thereof with intent to disrupt the orderly conduct of official business or to utter loud, threatening, or abusive language or engage in any disorderly or disruptive conduct in such buildings or areas.

(h)(1) Any person violating this Code section for the first time shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(2) Any person violating this Code section for the second time shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

(3) Any person violating this Code section for the third or any subsequent time shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than three years.

(i) The enactment of this Code section shall not repeal any other provision of law proscribing or regulating any conduct otherwise prohibited by this Code section.

16-11-39. Disorderly conduct.

(a) A person commits the offense of disorderly conduct when such person commits any of the following:

(1) Acts in a violent or tumultuous manner toward another person whereby such person is placed in reasonable fear of the safety of such person's life, limb, or health;

- (2) Acts in a violent or tumultuous manner toward another person whereby the property of such person is placed in danger of being damaged or destroyed;
 - (3) Without provocation, uses to or of another person in such other person's presence, opprobrious or abusive words which by their very utterance tend to incite to an immediate breach of the peace, that is to say, words which as a matter of common knowledge and under ordinary circumstances will, when used to or of another person in such other person's presence, naturally tend to provoke violent resentment, that is, words commonly called "fighting words"; or
 - (4) Without provocation, uses obscene and vulgar or profane language in the presence of or by telephone to a person under the age of 14 years which threatens an immediate breach of the peace.
- (b) Any person who commits the offense of disorderly conduct shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- (c) This Code section shall not be deemed or construed to affect or limit the powers of counties or municipal corporations to adopt ordinances or resolutions prohibiting disorderly conduct within their respective limits.

TITLE 17
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE
SELECTED PORTION OF TITLE

17-8-26. Grounds for granting of continuance—Party or party's attorney in attendance at General Assembly.

- (a) A member of the General Assembly who is a party to or the attorney for a party to a case which is pending in any trial or appellate court or before any administrative agency of this state shall be granted a continuance and stay of the case. The continuance and stay shall apply to all aspects of the case, including, but not limited to, the filing and serving of an answer to a complaint, the making of any discovery or motion, or of any response to any subpoena, discovery, or motion, and appearance at any hearing, pretrial appearance, arraignment, plea or motion calendar, trial, or argument. When a case, motion, hearing, or argument is called and is subject to a continuance or stay under this Code section due to the party's attorney's membership in the General Assembly, the party shall not be required to be present at the call of the case, motion, hearing, or argument. Unless a shorter length of time is requested by the member, the continuance and stay shall last the length of any regular or extraordinary session of the General Assembly and during the first three weeks following any recess or adjournment, including an adjournment sine die of any regular or extraordinary session. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, rule of court, or administrative rule or regulation, and to the extent permitted by the Constitutions of the United States and of the State of Georgia, the time for doing any act in the case which is delayed by the continuance or stay provided by this Code section shall be automatically extended by the same length of time as the continuance or stay covered.
- (b) A continuance and stay shall also be granted for such other times as the member of the General Assembly or staff member certifies to the court that his or her presence elsewhere is required by his or her duties with the General Assembly.

TITLE 20, CHAPTER 3, ARTICLE 2, PART 1A
DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY
SELECTED PORTION OF TITLE

20-3-41.2. Surrender of materials to division for preservation; preparation of certified copies; ownership, operation, and management of electronic archival records; exemption for certain records under certain conditions; "constitutional officer" defined.

(a) Any state, county, or other official is authorized, in his or her discretion, to turn over for permanent preservation in the Division of Archives and History any official books, records, documents, original papers, manuscript files, newspaper files, portraits, and printed volumes not in current use in his or her office. Any record created or received by a state agency, constitutional officer, or Speaker of the House of Representatives in the performance of a public duty or paid for by public funds and certified by the director of the Division of Archives and History as necessary to document the history, organization, functions, policies, decisions, and procedures of the agency or office shall be placed for permanent preservation in the Division of Archives and History when no longer in current use by the agency or officer. The board shall provide for the preservation of said materials; and, when so surrendered, copies thereof shall be made and certified by the director upon the application of any person interested, and such certification shall have the same force and effect as if made by the officers originally in custody of them and for which the same fees shall be charged.

(b) The Division of Archives and History shall own and operate any equipment necessary to manage and retain control of electronic archival records in its custody but may, at its discretion, contract with third-party entities to provide any or all services related to managing archival records on equipment owned by the contractor, by other third parties, or by the Division of Archives and History.

(c) Personal and official records and papers of the Lieutenant Governor and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be exempt from the provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section when such records and papers are deposited in a repository that meets the minimum archival and public access standards promulgated by the Division of Archives and History.

(d) As used in this Code section, the term "constitutional officer" means any officer enumerated in Article V, Section I, Paragraph I; Article V, Section I, Paragraph III; or Article V, Section III, Paragraph I of the Constitution.

TITLE 21, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 1
ETHICS IN GOVERNMENT
GENERAL PROVISIONS

21-5-1. Short title.

This chapter shall be known as and may be cited as the "Ethics in Government Act."

21-5-2. Declaration of policy.

It is declared to be the policy of this state, in furtherance of its responsibility to protect the integrity of the democratic process and to ensure fair elections for constitutional offices; state offices; district attorneys; members of the Georgia House of Representatives and Georgia Senate; all constitutional judicial officers; and all county and municipal elected officials, to institute and establish a requirement of public disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures relative to the seeking of such offices, to the recall of public officers holding elective office, and to the influencing of voter approval or rejection of a proposed constitutional amendment, a state-wide referendum, or a proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in any county or municipal election. Further, it is the policy of this state that the state's public affairs will be best served by disclosures of significant private interests of public officers and officials which may influence the discharge of their public duties and responsibilities. The General Assembly further finds that it is for the public to determine whether significant private interests of public officers have influenced the state's public officers to the detriment of their public duties and responsibilities and, in order to make that determination and hold the public officers accountable, the public must have reasonable access to the disclosure of the significant private interests of the public officers of this state.

21-5-3. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the term:

- (1) "Business entity" means any corporation, sole proprietorship, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, professional corporation, enterprise, franchise, association, trust, joint venture, or other entity, whether for profit or nonprofit.
- (2) "Campaign committee" means the candidate, person, or committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed to bring about the nomination or election of an individual to any elected office. The term "campaign committee" also means any person or committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed to bring about the recall of a public officer holding elective office or to oppose the recall of a public officer holding elective office or any person or any committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed constitutional amendment, a state-wide referendum, or a proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in this state or in a county or a municipal election in this state.
- (3) "Campaign contribution disclosure report" means a report filed with the commission by a candidate or the chairperson or treasurer of a campaign committee setting forth all expenditures of more than \$100.00 and all contributions of more than \$100.00, including contributions and expenditures of lesser amounts when the aggregate amount thereof by or to a person is more than \$100.00 for the calendar year in which the report is filed. Such report shall also include the total amount of all individual contributions received or expenditures made of less than \$100.00 each. The first report required in the calendar year of the election shall contain all such expenditures made and all such contributions received by the candidate or the committee in prior years in support of the campaign in question.
- (4) "Candidate" means an individual who seeks nomination for election or election to any public office, whether or not such an individual is elected; and a person shall be deemed to seek

nomination or election if such person has taken necessary action under the laws of this state to qualify such person for nomination for election or election or has received any contributions or made any expenditures in pursuit of such nomination or election or has given such person's consent for such person's campaign committee to receive contributions or make expenditures with a view to bringing about such person's nomination for election or election to such office.

(5) "Commission" means the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission created under Code Section 21-5-4.

(6) "Connected organization" means any organization, including any business entity, labor organization, membership organization, or cooperative, which is not a political action committee as defined in this Code section, but which, directly or indirectly, establishes or administers a political action committee or which provides more than 40 percent of the funds of the political action committee for a calendar year.

(7) "Contribution" means a gift, subscription, membership, loan, forgiveness of debt, advance or deposit of money or anything of value conveyed or transferred for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election or election of any person for office, bringing about the recall of a public officer holding elective office or opposing the recall of a public officer holding elective office, or the influencing of voter approval or rejection of a proposed constitutional amendment, a state-wide referendum, or a proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in this state or in a county or a municipal election in this state. The term specifically shall not include the value of personal services performed by persons who serve without compensation from any source and on a voluntary basis. The term "contribution" shall include other forms of payment made to candidates for office or who hold office when such fees and compensation made can be reasonably construed as a campaign contribution designed to encourage or influence a candidate or public officer holding elective office. The term "contribution" shall also encompass transactions wherein a qualifying fee required of the candidate is furnished or paid by anyone other than the candidate.

(8) "Direct ownership interest" means the holding or possession of good legal or rightful title of property or the holding or enjoyment of real or beneficial use of the property by any person and includes any interest owned or held by a spouse of such person if such interest is held jointly or as tenants in common between the person and spouse.

(9) "Election" means a primary election; run-off election, either primary or general; special election; or general election. The term "election" also means a recall election.

(10) "Election cycle" means the period from the day following the date of an election or appointment of a person to elective public office through and including the date of the next such election of a person to the same public office and shall be construed and applied separately for each elective office.

(11) "Election year" shall be construed and applied separately for each elective office and means for each elective office the calendar year during which a regular or special election to fill such office is held.

(12) "Expenditure" means a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or any transfer of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election or election of any person, bringing about the recall of a public officer holding elective office or opposing the recall of a public officer holding elective office, or the influencing of voter

approval or rejection of a proposed constitutional amendment, a state-wide referendum, or a proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in this state or in a county or a municipal election in this state. The term specifically shall not include the value of personal services performed by persons who serve without compensation from any source and on a voluntary basis. The term "expenditure" shall also include the payment of a qualifying fee for and on behalf of a candidate.

(13) "Fiduciary position" means any position imposing a duty to act primarily for the benefit of another person as an officer, director, manager, partner, guardian, or other designation of general responsibility of a business entity.

(14) "Gift" means any gratuitous transfer to a public officer or any member of the family of the public officer or a loan of property or services which is not a contribution as defined in paragraph (7) of this Code section and which is more than \$100.00.

(15) "Independent committee" means any committee, club, association, partnership, corporation, labor union, or other group of persons, other than a campaign committee, political party, or political action committee, which receives donations during a calendar year from persons who are members or supporters of the committee and which expends such funds either for the purpose of affecting the outcome of an election for any elected office or to advocate the election or defeat of any particular candidate.

(16) "Intangible property" means property which is not real property and which is held for profit and includes stocks, bonds, interest in partnerships, choses in action, and other investments but shall not include any ownership interest in any public or private retirement or pension fund, account, or system and shall not include any ownership interest in any public or private life insurance contract or any benefit, value, or proceeds of such life insurance contract.

(16.1) "Investment" means the investment of money or capital to gain interest or income.

(17) "Member of the family" means a spouse and all dependent children.

(17.1) "Nonelection year" shall be construed and applied separately for each elective office and means for each elective office any calendar year during which there is no regular or special election to fill such office.

(17.2) "Nonprofit organization" means a corporation, foundation, or other legal entity, no part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual holding an interest in such entity.

(18) "Ordinary and necessary expenses" shall include, but shall not be limited to, expenditures made during the reporting period for qualifying fees, office costs and rent, lodging, equipment, travel, advertising, postage, staff salaries, consultants, files storage, polling, special events, volunteers, reimbursements to volunteers, repayment of any loans received except as restricted under subsection (i) of Code Section 21-5-41, contributions to nonprofit organizations, flowers for special occasions, which shall include, but are not limited to, birthdays and funerals, attorney fees connected to and in the furtherance of the campaign, and all other expenditures contemplated in Code Section 21-5-33.

(19) "Person" means an individual, partnership, committee, association, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, trust, professional corporation, or other business

entity recognized in the State of Georgia, labor organization, or any other organization or group of persons.

(20) "Political action committee" means:

(A) Any committee, club, association, partnership, corporation, labor union, or other group of persons which receives donations during a calendar year from persons who are members or supporters of the committee and which contributes funds to one or more candidates for public office or campaign committees of candidates for public office; and

(B) A "separate segregated fund" as defined in Code Section 21-5-40.

Such term does not include a candidate campaign committee.

(21) "Public employee" means every person employed by the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government, or any department, board, bureau, agency, commission, or authority thereof.

(22) "Public officer" means:

(A) Every constitutional officer;

(B) Every elected state official;

(C) The executive head of every state department or agency, whether elected or appointed;

(D) Each member of the General Assembly;

(E) The executive director of each state board, commission, council, or authority and the members thereof;

(F) Every elected county official and every elected member of a local board of education; and

(G) Every elected municipal official.

(23) "Qualifying officer" means a person who qualifies a candidate for an election.

(24) "Reporting period" means the period of time beginning the day after the last report due date, excluding any grace period, through the due date of the next report.

21-5-4. Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission; membership; officers; quorum; meetings.

(a) The Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission shall be a successor to the State Ethics Commission, with such duties and powers as are set forth in this chapter. As the successor commission, it shall have all the powers and duties granted to the State Ethics Commission in all matters pending before the State Ethics Commission and may continue to investigate, prosecute, and act upon all such matters.

(b) The commission shall be governed by five members appointed as follows: three members, not more than two of whom shall be from the same political party, shall be appointed by the Governor, two for terms of three years and one for a term of two years; one member shall be appointed by the Senate Committee on Assignments for a term of four years; and one member shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives for a term of four years. Upon the expiration of a member's term of office, a new member, appointed in the same manner as the member whose term of office expired as provided in this subsection, shall become a member of the commission and shall serve for a term of four years and until such member's successor is duly appointed and qualified. If a vacancy occurs in the membership of the commission, a new member shall be appointed to the

unexpired term of office by the state official or the committee that appointed the vacating member. Members of the commission shall not serve for more than one complete term of office.

(c) All members of the commission shall be residents of this state.

(d) Any person who:

(1) Has qualified to run for any federal, state, or local public office within a period of five years prior to such person's appointment;

(2) Has held any federal, state, or local public office within a period of five years prior to such person's appointment; or

(3) Serves as an officer of any political party, whether such office is elective or appointive and whether such office exists on a local, state, or national level

shall be ineligible to serve as a member of the commission.

(e) The commission shall elect a chairperson, a vice chairperson, and other officers as it deems necessary. The members shall not be compensated for their services but they shall be reimbursed in an amount equal to the per diem received by the General Assembly for each day or portion thereof spent in serving as members of the commission. They shall be paid their necessary traveling expenses while engaged in the business of the commission.

(f) A majority of the members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. The vote of at least a majority of the members present at any meeting at which a quorum is present is necessary for any action to be taken by the commission. No vacancy in the membership of the commission impairs the right of a quorum to exercise all rights and perform all duties of the commission.

(g) Meetings of the members of the commission shall be held at the call of the chairperson or whenever any two members so request.

21-5-5. Operating expenses.

The funds necessary to carry out this chapter shall come from the funds appropriated to and available to the commission and from any other available funds. The commission shall be a budget unit as defined in Part 1 of Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 45, the "Budget Act"; provided, however, that the commission shall be assigned for administrative purposes only to the Secretary of State.

21-5-6. Powers and duties of the commission.

(a) The commission is vested with the following powers:

(1) To meet at such times and places as it may deem necessary;

(2) To contract with other agencies, public or private, or persons as it deems necessary for the rendering and affording of such services, facilities, studies, and reports to the commission as will best assist it to carry out its duties and responsibilities;

(3) To cooperate with and secure the cooperation of every department, agency, or instrumentality in the state government or its political subdivisions in the furtherance of the purposes of this chapter;

(4) To employ an executive secretary and such additional staff as the commission deems necessary to carry out the powers delegated to the commission by this chapter;

- (5) To issue subpoenas to compel any person to appear, give sworn testimony, or produce documentary or other evidence;
 - (6) To institute and prosecute actions in the superior courts, in its own name, seeking to enjoin or restrain any violation or threatened violation of this chapter;
 - (7) To adopt in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act," any rules and regulations necessary and appropriate for carrying out the purposes of this chapter; provided, however, that the commission shall not require the reporting or disclosure of more information on any report than is expressly required to be reported or disclosed by this chapter, unless such information was required to be reported or disclosed by rules and regulations of the commission which were in effect as of January 1, 2013, so long as such rules and regulations do not conflict with this chapter; and
 - (8) To do any and all things necessary or convenient to enable it to perform wholly and adequately its duties and to exercise the powers specifically authorized to it in this chapter.
- (b) The commission shall have the following duties:
- (1) To prescribe forms to be used in complying with this chapter;
 - (2) To prepare and publish in print or electronically a manual setting forth recommended uniform methods of accounting and reporting for use by persons required by this chapter to file statements and reports;
 - (3) To accept and file any information voluntarily supplied that exceeds the requirements of this chapter;
 - (4) To develop a filing, coding, and cross-indexing system consonant with the purposes of this chapter;
 - (5) To adopt a retention standard for records of the commission in accordance with Article 5 of Chapter 18 of Title 50, the "Georgia Records Act";
 - (6) To prepare and publish in print or electronically such other reports and technical studies as in its judgment will tend to promote the purposes of this chapter;
 - (7) To provide for public dissemination of such summaries and reports;
 - (8) To determine whether the required statements and reports have been filed and, if so, whether they conform to the requirements of this chapter;
 - (9) To make investigations, subject to the limitations contained in Code Section 21-5-7.1, with respect to the statements and reports filed under this chapter and with respect to alleged failure to file any statements or reports required under this chapter and upon receipt of the written complaint of any person, verified under oath to the best information, knowledge, and belief by the person making such complaint with respect to an alleged violation of any provision of this chapter, provided that nothing in this Code section shall be construed to limit or encumber the right of the commission to initiate on probable cause an investigation on its own cognizance as it deems necessary to fulfill its obligations under this chapter;
 - (10)(A) To conduct a preliminary investigation, subject to the limitations contained in Code Section 21-5-7.1, of the merits of a written complaint by any person who believes that a violation of this chapter has occurred, verified under oath to the best information, knowledge, and belief by the person making such complaint. If there are found no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, the complaint shall be dismissed, subject to being reopened

upon discovery of additional evidence or relevant material. If the commission determines that there are such reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, it shall give notice by summoning the persons believed to have committed the violation to a hearing. The hearing shall be conducted in all respects in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act." The commission may file a complaint charging violations of this chapter, and any person aggrieved by the final decision of the commission is entitled to judicial review in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50; provided, however, that nothing in this Code section shall be construed to limit or encumber the right of the commission to initiate on probable cause an investigation on its own cognizance as it deems necessary to fulfill its obligations under this chapter.

(B) In any such preliminary investigation referenced in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, until such time as the commission determines that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, it shall not be necessary to give the notice by summons nor to conduct a hearing in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act";

(11) To report suspected violations of law to the appropriate law enforcement authority;

(12) To investigate upon a written complaint any illegal use of public employees in a political campaign by any candidate;

(13) To issue, upon written request, and publish in print or electronically written advisory opinions on the requirements of this chapter, based on a real or hypothetical set of circumstances; and each such written advisory opinion shall be issued within 60 days of the written request for the advisory opinion. The commission shall make all advisory opinions that were issued after January 9, 2006, publicly available for review and shall post these and all future opinions on the commission's website, and the commission shall make all advisory opinions that were issued prior to January 9, 2006, publicly available for review and shall post these opinions on the commission's website. No liability shall be imposed under this chapter for any act or omission made in conformity with a written advisory opinion issued by the commission that is valid at the time of the act or omission;

(14) To issue orders, after the completion of appropriate proceedings, directing compliance with this chapter or prohibiting the actual or threatened commission of any conduct constituting a violation. Such order may include a provision requiring the violator:

(A) To cease and desist from committing further violations;

(B) To make public complete statements, in corrected form, containing the information required by this chapter;

(C)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of Code Section 21-5-7.1, to pay a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000.00 for each violation contained in any report required by this chapter or for each failure to comply with any other provision of this chapter or of any rule or regulation promulgated under this chapter; provided, however, that a civil penalty not to exceed \$10,000.00 may be imposed for a second occurrence of a violation of the same provision and a civil penalty not to exceed \$25,000.00 may be imposed for each third or subsequent occurrence of a violation of the same provision. In imposing a penalty or late filing fee under this chapter, the commission may waive or suspend such penalty or fee if the imposition of

such penalty or fee would impose an undue hardship on the person required to pay such penalty or fee. The commission may also waive or suspend a penalty or fee in the case of failure to file or late filing of a report if there are no items to be included in the report. For the purposes of the penalties imposed by this division, the same error, act, omission, or inaccurate entry shall be considered a single violation if the error, act, omission, or inaccurate entry appears multiple times on the same report or causes further errors, omissions, or inaccurate entries in that report or in any future reports or further violations in that report or in any future reports.

(ii) A civil penalty shall not be assessed except after notice and hearing as provided by Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act." The amount of any civil penalty finally assessed shall be recoverable by a civil action brought in the name of the commission. All moneys recovered pursuant to this Code section shall be deposited in the state treasury.

(iii) The Attorney General of this state shall, upon complaint by the commission, or may, upon the Attorney General's own initiative if after examination of the complaint and evidence the Attorney General believes a violation has occurred, bring an action in the superior court in the name of the commission for a temporary restraining order or other injunctive relief or for civil penalties for a violation of any provision of this chapter or any rule or regulation duly issued by the commission.

(iv) Any action brought by the Attorney General to enforce civil penalties for a violation of the provisions of this chapter or of any rule or regulation duly issued by the commission or any order issued by the commission ordering compliance or to cease and desist from further violations shall be brought in the superior court of the county of the residence of the party against whom relief is sought. Service of process shall lie in any jurisdiction within the state. In such actions, the superior court inquiry shall be limited to whether notice was given by the commission to the violator in compliance with the Constitution and the rules of procedure of Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act." Upon satisfaction that notice was given and a hearing was held pursuant to Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act," the superior court shall enforce the orders of the commission and the civil penalties assessed under this chapter and the superior court shall not make independent inquiry as to whether the violations have occurred.

(v) In any action brought by the Attorney General to enforce any of the provisions of this chapter or of any rule or regulation issued by the commission, the judgment, if in favor of the commission, shall provide that the defendant pay to the commission the costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, incurred by the commission in the prosecution of such action.

The commission shall make all such orders that were issued after January 9, 2006, publicly available for review and shall post these and all future orders on the commission's website, and the commission shall make all advisory orders that were issued prior to January 9, 2006, publicly available for review and shall post these orders on the commission's website. Such orders shall serve as precedent for all future orders and opinions of the commission;

(15) To make public its conclusion that a violation has occurred and the nature of such violation;

- (16) To petition the superior court within the county where the hearing was or is being conducted for the enforcement of any order issued in connection with such hearing;
- (17) To report to the General Assembly and the Governor at the close of each fiscal year concerning the action taken during that time, the names, salaries, and duties of all individuals employed, and the funds disbursed and to make such further report on the matters within its jurisdiction as may appear desirable;
- (18) To carry out the procedures, duties, and obligations relative to the commission set forth in this chapter;
- (19) On a quarterly basis, to prepare, update, and publish in print or electronically a report and post such report on its website, listing the name of each filer required to file with the commission who has not filed the most recent campaign contribution disclosure report required by Code Sections 21-5-34 and 21-5-34.1, the financial disclosure statement required by Code Section 21-5-50, or the disclosure report required by Code Section 21-5-73 within 30 days of the date such report was due to be filed;
- (20) To publish in print or electronically overall lobbyist spending by category. Such categories shall include gifts, meals, entertainment, office supplies, lodging, equipment, advertising, travel, and postage;
- (21) To promulgate rules and regulations with respect to electronic filings;
- (22) To provide and conduct semiannual training on the mechanics of electronic filing and registration;
- (23) To award attorneys' fees to the party complained against if the commission deems the complaint to be frivolous, legally or factually, or if the complaining party fails, without good cause, to appear at the preliminary hearing on the complaint; and
- (24) To issue a warning letter to persons who have not filed any statement or report required by this chapter.

21-5-7. Initiation of complaints.

The commission shall not initiate any investigation or inquiry into any matter under its jurisdiction based upon the complaint of any person unless that person shall produce the same in writing and verify the same under oath to the best information, knowledge, and belief of such person, the falsification of which shall be punishable as false swearing under Code Section 16-10-71. The person against whom any complaint is made shall be furnished by hand delivery or statutory overnight delivery or mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, a copy of the complaint by the commission within two business days of the commission's receipt of such complaint and prior to any other public dissemination of such complaint. Nothing in this Code section, however, shall be construed to limit or encumber the right of the commission to initiate on probable cause an investigation on its own cognizance as it deems necessary to fulfill its obligations under this chapter.

21-5-7.1. Technical defects in filings; determination; notice to the subject of the complaint and opportunity to correct the defect; administrative fee; dismissal of complaints where best efforts have been made to complete a filing.

The commission shall adopt rules which shall provide that:

- (1) Upon the commission's receipt of a complaint, a determination shall be made as to whether the complaint relates to a technical defect in a filing. For this purpose, a technical defect shall include, but not be limited to, a defect such as an incorrect date or a failure to include a date, an incorrect contributor's occupation or a failure to include a contributor's occupation, an incorrect address or e-mail address or a failure to include an address or e-mail address, an incorrect employer or a failure to include an employer, accounting errors, or any other similar defects;
- (2) When the commission determines that a complaint relates to a technical defect in a filing, the subject of the complaint shall be issued a notice of the technical defect by certified mail, return receipt requested, or statutory overnight delivery and shall be given a period of 30 calendar days from the receipt of the notice to correct the technical defect. During the 30 day period the complaint shall be considered as received by the commission but not yet filed with the commission and shall not be considered a violation of this chapter. If during the 30 day period the technical defect is cured by an amended filing or otherwise, or if during the 30 day period the subject of the complaint demonstrates that there is no technical defect as alleged, the complaint shall be disposed of without filing or further proceedings and no penalty shall be imposed. If the subject of the complaint fails to respond to the notice of a technical defect, make an amended filing, or demonstrate that there is no technical defect as alleged by the thirty-first day, the commission shall impose and collect an administrative fee not to exceed \$50.00 per technical defect. For the purposes of the penalties imposed by this paragraph, the same error or inaccurate entry shall be considered a single technical violation if the error or inaccurate entry appears multiple times on a single report or causes further errors or inaccurate entries in that report or in any future reports;
- (3) If the subject of the complaint does not pay the administrative fee required by paragraph (2) of this Code section, if any, and does not otherwise also comply with paragraph (2) of this Code section by the sixtieth day from the receipt of the notice of a technical defect, the commission shall conduct further investigation and the complaint may proceed further in accordance with the provisions of this chapter; and
- (4) When the commission determines in its discretion that best efforts have been made to complete a required filing, said filing shall be considered in compliance with this Code section and any complaint relative to said filing shall be dismissed.

21-5-8. Venue.

Venue for prosecution of civil violations of this chapter or for any other action by or on behalf of the commission shall be in the county of the residence of the candidate or public officer at the time of the alleged violation or action.

21-5-9. Penalties.

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, any person who knowingly fails to comply with or who knowingly violates this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. The provisions of this Code

section shall not preclude prosecution and punishment for the commission of any felony offense as otherwise provided by law.

21-5-10. Chapter as continuation of laws; effect of enactment.

The provisions of this chapter, so far as they are the same as those of existing laws, are intended as a continuation of such laws and not as new enactments. The repeal by this chapter of any Act of the General Assembly, or part thereof, shall not revive any Act, or part thereof, heretofore repealed or superseded. This chapter shall not affect any act done, liability or penalty incurred, or right accrued or vested prior to the taking effect of this chapter; nor shall this chapter affect any actions or prosecution then pending, or to be instituted, to enforce any right or penalty then accrued or to punish any offense theretofore committed.

21-5-11. Acceptance by public officers of monetary fees or honoraria.

(a) No public officer other than a public officer elected state wide shall accept a monetary fee or honorarium in excess of \$100.00 for a speaking engagement, participation in a seminar, discussion panel, or other activity which directly relates to the official duties of that public officer or the office of that public officer.

(b) No public officer elected state wide shall accept any monetary fee or honorarium for a speaking engagement, participation in a seminar, discussion panel, or other such activity.

(c) For purposes of this chapter, actual and reasonable expenses for food, beverages, travel, lodging, and registration for a meeting which are provided to permit participation in a panel or speaking engagement at the meeting shall not be monetary fees or honoraria.

21-5-12. Connected organizations.

(a) The name of each political action committee shall include the name of its connected organization.

(b) The name of any separate segregated fund, as defined in Code Section 21-5-40, shall include the name of its connected organization.

21-5-13. Limitation of actions.

Any action alleging a violation of this chapter shall be commenced within three years after the date of filing of the first report containing the alleged violation; provided, however, that any action alleging a violation of this chapter shall be commenced within five years after the date of filing of the first report containing the alleged violation involving any person elected to serve for a term of four or more years or any candidate for an office with a term of four or more years. For purposes of this Code section, an action shall be deemed to have commenced against a person only when either:

(1) A complaint has been accepted by the commission in compliance with Code Section 21-5-7; or

(2) The commission or Attorney General serves on such person a notice of summons or hearing, in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act," that alleges that such person has violated this chapter.

21-5-14. E-mail address reporting requirements; exceptions.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, each individual required by this chapter to file a report or disclosure statement with the commission shall provide the commission, in writing, with a current e-mail address and shall advise the commission, in writing, of any change to such address within ten days of any change to such address. Such information shall be provided to the commission prior to January 31 each year.

(b) City, county, and school board officials are not required to provide an e-mail address to the commission.

21-5-15. Notice to local officials regarding certain actions to be given by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery.

When the commission gives notice to a local official referred to in subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 of any of the actions listed in this Code section, such notice shall be given by certified mail or statutory overnight delivery. This Code section shall apply with respect to any notice of: the filing of a complaint; a technical defect in a filing; a failure to make a timely filing; or a late fee or other penalty.

**TITLE 21, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 2
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**

21-5-30. Contributions made to candidate or campaign committee or for recall of a public officer.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (e) of Code Section 21-5-34, no contributions to bring about the nomination or election of a candidate for any office shall be made or accepted except directly to or by a candidate or such candidate's campaign committee which is organized for the purpose of bringing about the nomination or election of any such candidate; and no contributions to bring about the recall of a public officer or to oppose the recall of a public officer or to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of a proposed constitutional amendment, state-wide referendum, or proposed question at the state, municipal, or county level shall be made or accepted except directly to or by a campaign committee organized for that purpose.

(b) Each candidate shall maintain records and file reports as required by this chapter or shall have a campaign committee for the purposes of maintaining records and filing reports as required by this chapter. Every campaign committee shall have a chairperson and a treasurer, except that the candidate may serve as the chairperson and treasurer. Before a campaign committee accepts contributions, the name and address of the chairperson and treasurer shall be filed with the commission. When a candidate has been elected to public office, the registration of that candidate's campaign committee with the commission shall remain in effect so long as the candidate remains in office until and unless the registration is canceled by the campaign committee or the candidate. The same person may serve as chairperson and treasurer. No contributions shall be accepted by or on behalf of the campaign committee at a time when there is a vacancy in the office of chairperson or treasurer of the campaign committee.

(c) Contributions of money received pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section shall be deposited in a campaign depository account opened and maintained by the candidate or the campaign committee. The account may be an interest-bearing account; provided, however, that any interest earned on such account shall be reported and may only be used for the purposes allowed for contributions under this chapter. Those who elect the separate accounting option as provided in Code Section 21-5-43 may also open, but are not required to open, a separate campaign depository account for each election for which contributions are accepted and allocated beyond their next upcoming election.

(d) Unless otherwise reported individually, where separate contributions of less than \$100.00 are knowingly received from a common source, such contributions shall be aggregated for reporting purposes. For purposes of fulfilling such aggregation requirement, members of the family, members of the same firm or partnership, or employees of the same person, as defined in paragraph (19) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall be considered to be a common source; provided, however, that the purchase of tickets for not more than \$25.00 each and for or attendance at a fundraising event by members of the family, members of the same firm or partnership, or employees of the same person shall not be considered to be contributions from a common source except to the extent that tickets are purchased as a block.

(e) The making and acceptance of anonymous contributions are prohibited. Any anonymous contributions received by a candidate or campaign committee shall be transmitted to the state treasurer for deposit in the state treasury, and the fact of such contribution and transmittal shall be reported to the commission.

(f)(1) For purposes of this subsection, the term:

(A) "Public utility corporation regulated by the Public Service Commission" includes, but is not limited to, an electric membership corporation.

(B) "Electric membership corporation" means a public utility corporation regulated by the Public Service Commission operating as an electric membership corporation under the provisions of Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 46.

(2) Except as limited by Code Section 21-5-30.1 or this subsection, a public utility corporation regulated by the Public Service Commission shall be allowed to make contributions to political campaigns. Any contributions made by a public utility corporation regulated by the Public Service Commission to a political campaign shall not be included as recoverable costs in any rate-making or rate-setting proceedings before the Public Service Commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Code section or any other provision of law to the contrary, no electric membership corporation and no nonprofit corporation, group, or association, the membership of which consists of electric membership corporations, shall be authorized to make any contribution to a political campaign. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this Code section shall be construed to prohibit a nonprofit corporation, group, or association, the membership of which consists of electric membership corporations, from establishing, administering, and soliciting contributions for a political action committee from officers, directors, employees, agents, contractors, and members of such entities so long as such actions and contributions do not otherwise violate the provisions of this chapter.

(g) Neither a candidate who is not a public officer nor his or her campaign committee may lawfully accept a campaign contribution until the candidate has filed with the commission a declaration of intention to accept campaign contributions which shall include the name and address of the candidate and the names and addresses of his or her campaign committee officers, if any; provided, however, that a candidate, as defined in subparagraphs (F) and (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall make filings of the same kind and in the same manner as provided in this subsection for other public officers except that filings under this subsection shall be made with the election superintendent of the county in the case of public officers as defined in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 and shall be made with the municipal clerk in the municipality of election or, if there is no clerk, with the chief executive officer of the municipality in the case of public officers as defined in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3. The election superintendent, municipal clerk, or chief executive officer, as applicable, shall transmit electronically by eFiling or eFax a copy of each such declaration of intention to the commission not later than ten days after the close of the reporting period.

21-5-30.1. Contributions by regulated entities to elected executive officers or candidates.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the definitions set forth in Code Section 21-5-3 shall be applicable to the provisions of this Code section. As used in this Code section, the term:

- (1) "Campaign committee" means the candidate, person, or committee which accepts contributions to bring about the nomination for election or election of an individual to the office of an elected executive officer.
- (2) "Contribution" means a gift, subscription, membership, loan, forgiveness of debt, advance or deposit of money, or anything of value conveyed or transferred for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election or election of an individual to the office of an elected executive officer or encouraging the holder of such office to seek reelection. The term "contribution" shall include the payment of a qualifying fee for and on behalf of a candidate for the office of an elected executive officer and any other payment or purchase made for and on behalf of the holder of the office of an elected executive officer or for or on behalf of a candidate for that office when such payment or purchase is made for the purpose of influencing the nomination for election or election of the candidate and is made pursuant to the request or authority of the holder of such office, the candidate, the campaign committee of the candidate, or any other agent of the holder of such office or the candidate. The term "contribution" shall not include the value of personal services performed by persons who serve on a voluntary basis without compensation from any source.
- (3) "Elected executive officer" means the Secretary of State, Attorney General, State School Superintendent, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, and members of the Public Service Commission.
- (4) "Political action committee" means any committee, club, association, partnership, corporation, labor union, or other group of persons which receives donations aggregating in excess of \$1,000.00 during a calendar year from persons who are members or supporters of the committee and which distributes these funds as contributions to one or more campaign committees of candidates for public office. Such term does not mean a campaign committee.

(5) "Regulated entity" means any person who is required by law to be licensed by an elected executive officer or a board under the jurisdiction of an elected executive officer, any person who leases property owned by or for a state department, any person who engages in a business or profession which is regulated by an elected executive officer or by a board under the jurisdiction of an elected executive officer, or any public utility corporation regulated by the Public Service Commission. For purposes of this paragraph, public utility corporation regulated by the Public Service Commission shall have the same meaning as provided by subsection (f) of Code Section 21-5-30.

(b) No regulated entity and no person or political action committee acting on behalf of a regulated entity shall make a contribution to or on behalf of a person holding office as an elected executive officer regulating such entity or to or on behalf of a candidate for the office of an elected executive officer regulating such entity or to or on behalf of a campaign committee of any such candidate.

(c) No person holding office as an elected executive officer and no candidate for the office of an elected executive officer shall accept a contribution in violation of subsection (b) of this Code section.

(d) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to prevent any person who may be employed by a regulated entity, including a person in whose name a license or lease is held, or who is an officer of a regulated entity from voluntarily making a campaign contribution from that person's personal funds to or on behalf of a person holding office as an elected executive officer regulating such entity or to or on behalf of a candidate for the office of an elected executive officer regulating such entity or to or on behalf of a campaign committee of any such candidate; provided, however, that:

(1) The elected executive officer or candidate receiving one or more campaign contributions described in this subsection shall in his or her disclosure report under Code Section 21-5-34 separately identify each contribution and the total of contributions which he or she knows or should have reason to know are described in this subsection; and

(2) It shall be unlawful for any regulated entity or elected executive officer to require another by coercive action to make any such contribution.

21-5-30.2. Contributions by public agencies.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the definitions set forth in Code Section 21-5-3 shall be applicable to the provisions of this Code section. As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) "Agency" means:

(A) Every state department, agency, board, bureau, commission, and authority;

(B) Every county, municipal corporation, school district, or other political subdivision of this state;

(C) Every department, agency, board, bureau, commission, authority, or similar body of each such county, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision of this state; and

(D) Every city, county, regional, or other authority established pursuant to the laws of this state.

(2) "Contribution" means a gift, subscription, membership, loan, forgiveness of debt, advance or deposit of money, or anything of value conveyed or transferred by or on behalf of an agency,

without receipt of payment therefor, to any campaign committee, political action committee, or political organization or to any candidate for campaign purposes.

(3) "Elector" means any person who shall possess all of the qualifications for voting now or hereafter prescribed by the laws of this state and who shall have registered in accordance with Chapter 2 of this title.

(4) "Political action committee" means any committee, club, association, partnership, corporation, labor union, or other group of persons which receives donations aggregating in excess of \$1,000.00 during a calendar year from persons who are members or supporters of the committee and which distributes these funds as contributions to one or more campaign committees of candidates for public office. Such term does not mean a campaign committee.

(5) "Political organization" means an affiliation of electors organized for the purpose of influencing or controlling the policies and conduct of government through the nomination of candidates for public office and, if possible, the election of its candidates to public office.

(6) "Public meeting place" means any county, municipal, or other public building suitable and ordinarily used for public gatherings.

(b) No agency and no person acting on behalf of an agency shall make, directly or indirectly, any contribution to any campaign committee, political action committee, or political organization or to any candidate; but nothing in this Code section shall prohibit the furnishing of office space, facilities, equipment, goods, or services to a public officer for use by the public officer in such officer's fulfillment of such office.

(c) No campaign committee, political action committee, or political organization or candidate shall accept a contribution in violation of subsection (b) of this Code section.

(d) Nothing contained in this Code section shall be construed to:

(1) Affect the authority of the State Personnel Board regarding the regulation of certain political activities of public employees in the classified service as defined by Code Section 45-20-2;

(2) Affect the authority of any agency regarding the regulation of the political activities of such agency's employees;

(3) Affect the use of the capitol building and grounds as specified in Code Section 50-16-4; or

(4) Prohibit the use of public meeting places by political organizations when such meeting places are made available to different political organizations on an equal basis; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not be construed to create a right for a political organization to use a public meeting place.

21-5-32. Accounts to be kept by candidate or campaign committee treasurer.

(a) The candidate or treasurer of each campaign committee shall keep detailed accounts, current within not more than five business days after the date of receiving a contribution or making an expenditure, of all contributions received and all expenditures made by or on behalf of the candidate or committee. The candidate or treasurer shall also keep detailed accounts of all deposits and of all withdrawals made to the separate campaign depository and of all interest earned on any such deposits.

(b) Accounts kept by the candidate or treasurer of a campaign committee pursuant to this Code section may be inspected under reasonable circumstances before, during, or after the election to

which the accounts refer by any authorized representative of the commission. The right of inspection may be enforced by appropriate writ issued by any court of competent jurisdiction.

(c) Records of such accounts kept by the candidate or campaign committee shall be preserved for three years from the termination date of the campaign for elective office conducted by the candidate or of the campaign committee for any candidate or for three years from the election to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed constitutional amendment, referendum, or local issue or of any recall vote.

21-5-33. Disposition of contributions.

(a) Contributions to a candidate, a campaign committee, or a public officer holding elective office and any proceeds from investing such contributions shall be utilized only to defray ordinary and necessary expenses, which may include any loan of money from a candidate or public officer holding elective office to the campaign committee of such candidate or such public officer, incurred in connection with such candidate's campaign for elective office or such public officer's fulfillment or retention of such office.

(b)(1) All contributions received by a candidate or such candidate's campaign committee or a public officer holding elective office in excess of those necessary to defray expenses pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section and as determined by such candidate or such public officer may only be used as follows:

(A) As contributions to any charitable organization described in 26 U.S.C. 170(c) as said federal statute exists on March 1, 1986, and which additionally shall include educational, eleemosynary, and nonprofit organizations;

(B) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (D) of this paragraph, for transferral without limitation to any national, state, or local committee of any political party or to any candidate;

(C) For transferral without limitation to persons making such contributions, not to exceed the total amount cumulatively contributed by each such transferee;

(D) For use in future campaigns for only that elective office for which those contributions were received. With respect to contributions held on January 1, 1992, or received thereafter, in the event the candidate, campaign committee, or public officer holding elective office has not designated, prior to receiving contributions to which this Code section is applicable, the office for which campaign contributions are received thereby, those contributions shall be deemed to have been received for the elective office which the candidate held at the time the contributions were received or, if the candidate did not then hold elective office, those contributions shall be deemed to have been received for that elective office for which that person was a candidate most recently following the receipt of such contributions; or

(E) For repayment of any prior campaign obligations incurred as a candidate.

(2) Any candidate or public officer holding elective office may provide in the will of such candidate or such public officer that the contributions shall be spent in any of the authorized manners upon the death of such candidate or such public officer; and, in the absence of any such direction in the probated will of such candidate or such public officer, the contributions shall be paid to the treasury of the state party with which such candidate or such public officer was affiliated in such candidate's or such public officer's last election or elective office after the

payment of any expenses pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this paragraph, the personal representative or executor of the estate shall be allowed to use or pay out funds in the campaign account in any manner authorized in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(c) Contributions and interest thereon, if any, shall not constitute personal assets of such candidate or such public officer.

(d)(1) Contributions received by a campaign committee designed to bring about the recall of a public officer holding elective office or to oppose the recall of a public officer holding elective office or any person or to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed constitutional amendment, a state-wide referendum, or a proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in any county or municipal election and any proceeds derived from investing such contributions shall be utilized only to defray ordinary and necessary expenses associated with influencing the voters on such issue.

(2) All contributions received by a campaign committee as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection in excess of those necessary to defray expenses relative to the influencing of voters on such issue as determined by the campaign committee may only be used as follows:

(A) Contributions to any charitable organization described in 26 U.S.C. 170(c) as such federal statute exists on March 1, 1986, and which additionally shall include educational, eleemosynary, and nonprofit organizations; or

(B) For repayment on a pro rata basis to persons making such contributions.

21-5-34. Disclosure reports.

(a)(1)(A) The candidate or the chairperson or treasurer of each campaign committee organized to bring about the nomination or election of a candidate for any office and the chairperson or treasurer of every campaign committee designed to bring about the recall of a public officer or to oppose the recall of a public officer or designed to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed constitutional amendment, state-wide proposed question, or state-wide referendum shall electronically sign and file with the commission the required campaign contribution disclosure reports; provided, however, that public offices listed in subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 shall be subject to signing and filing requirements as prescribed by paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection, and recalls for such offices shall be subject to signing and filing requirements the same as required of candidates for such offices as prescribed by paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection.

(B) The chairperson or treasurer of each independent committee shall file the required disclosure reports with the commission.

(2)(A) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of any proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in this state shall register with the commission and file campaign contribution disclosure reports as prescribed by this chapter or, in the case of any proposed question which is to appear on the ballot in a county or municipal election, shall register and file campaign disclosure reports with the same officials as prescribed by paragraph (3) or (4) of this subsection for candidates for county or municipal offices; provided, however, that such reports

shall only be required if such campaign committee has received contributions which total more than \$500.00 or if such campaign committee has made expenditures which total more than \$500.00. All advertising pertaining to referendums shall identify the principal officer of such campaign committee by listing or stating the name and title of the principal officer.

(B) If a campaign committee is required to file a report with the commission under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, such report shall be electronically filed. Any such report shall be filed 15 days prior to the date of the election; and a final report shall be filed prior to December 31 of the election year.

(3) A candidate for a public office listed in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's campaign committee shall sign and file the required disclosure reports with the election superintendent in the county of election. Upon receipt of any such report, the election superintendent shall cause such report to be available for inspection and copying in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50. The election superintendent shall transmit a copy of each such report to the commission, electronically by eFiling or eFax, not later than 30 days after the end of the grace period. No fine, fee, or sanction, including but not limited to identifying a candidate as having filed late or failed to file, shall be imposed by the commission on a candidate for the failure of the election superintendent to timely transmit a copy of such report.

(4) A candidate for a public office listed in subparagraph (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of such candidate's campaign committee shall sign and file the required disclosure reports with the municipal clerk in the municipality of election or, if there is no clerk, with the chief executive officer of the municipality; provided, however, that a municipality and a county may enter into an agreement whereby such candidates, chairpersons, or treasurers shall file the required disclosure reports with the county election superintendent instead. Upon receipt of any such report, the municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the municipality, or county election superintendent, as applicable, shall cause such report to be available for inspection and copying in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 18 of Title 50. The municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the municipality, or county election superintendent, as applicable, shall transmit a copy of each such report to the commission, electronically by eFiling or eFax, not later than 30 days after the end of the grace period. No fine, fee, or sanction, including but not limited to identifying a candidate as having filed late or failed to file, shall be imposed by the commission on a candidate for the failure of the municipal clerk, chief executive officer of the county, or county election superintendent to timely transmit a copy of such report.

(b)(1) All reports shall list the following:

(A) As to any contribution of more than \$100.00, its amount and date of receipt, the election for which the contribution has been accepted and allocated, along with the name and mailing address of the contributor, and, if the contributor is an individual, that individual's occupation and the name of his or her employer. Such contributions shall include, but shall not be limited to, the purchase of tickets for events such as dinners, luncheons, rallies, and similar fund-raising events coordinated for the purpose of raising campaign contributions for the reporting person;

(B) As to any expenditure of more than \$100.00, its amount and date of expenditure, the name and mailing address of the recipient receiving the expenditure, and, if that recipient is an

individual, that individual's occupation and the name of his or her employer and the general purpose of the expenditure;

(C) When a contribution consists of a loan, advance, or other extension of credit, the report shall also contain the name of the lending institution or party making the advance or extension of credit and the names, mailing addresses, occupations, and places of employment of all persons having any liability for repayment of the loan, advance, or extension of credit; and, if any such persons shall have a fiduciary relationship to the lending institution or party making the advance or extension of credit, the report shall specify such relationship;

(D) Total contributions received and total expenditures shall be reported for an election cycle as follows:

(i) The first report of an election cycle shall list the cash on hand brought forward from the previous election cycle, if any, and the total contributions received during the period covered by the report;

(ii) Subsequent reports shall list the total contributions received during the period covered by the report and the cumulative total of contributions received during the election cycle;

(iii) The first report of an election cycle shall list the total expenditures made during the period covered by the report;

(iv) Subsequent reports shall list the total expenditures made during the period covered by the report, the cumulative total of expenditures made during the election cycle, and net balance on hand; and

(v) If a public officer seeks reelection to the same public office, or if the public officer is a member of the General Assembly seeking reelection in another district as a result of redistricting, the net balance on hand at the end of the current election cycle shall be carried forward to the first report of the applicable new election cycle;

(E) The corporate, labor union, or other affiliation of any political action committee or independent committee making a contribution of more than \$100.00;

(F) Any investment made with funds of a campaign committee, independent committee, or political action committee and held outside such committee's official depository account during each reporting period for which an investment exists or a transaction applying to an identifiable investment is made. The report shall identify the name of the entity or person with whom such investment was made, the initial and any subsequent amount of such investment if such investment was made during the reporting period, and any profit or loss from the sale of such investment occurred during such reporting period; and

(G) Total debt owed on the last day of the reporting period.

(2) Each report shall be in such form as will allow for the separate identification of a contribution or contributions which are less than \$100.00 but which become reportable due to the receipt of an additional contribution or contributions which when combined with such previously received contribution or contributions cumulatively equal or exceed \$100.00.

(c) Candidates or campaign committees which accept contributions, make expenditures designed to bring about the nomination or election of a candidate, or have filed a declaration of intention to accept campaign contributions pursuant to subsection (g) of Code Section 21-5-30 shall file campaign contribution disclosure reports in compliance with the following schedule:

- (1) In each nonelection year on January 31 and June 30;
- (2) In each election year:
 - (A) On January 31, March 31, June 30, September 30, October 25, and December 31;
 - (B) Six days before any run-off primary or election in which the candidate is listed on the ballot; and
 - (C) During the period of time between the last report due prior to the date of any election for which the candidate is qualified and the date of such election, all contributions of \$1,000.00 or more shall be reported within two business days of receipt and also reported on the next succeeding regularly scheduled campaign contribution disclosure report;
- (3) If the candidate is a candidate in a special primary or special primary runoff, 15 days prior to the special primary and six days prior to the special primary runoff; and
- (4) If the candidate is a candidate in a special election or special election runoff, 15 days prior to the special election and six days prior to the special election runoff.

All persons or entities required to file reports shall have a five-day grace period in filing the required reports, except that the grace period shall be two days for required reports prior to run-off primaries or run-off elections, and no grace period shall apply to contributions required to be reported within two business days. Reports required to be filed within two business days of a contribution shall be reported by facsimile or electronic transmission. Any facsimile filing shall also have an identical electronic filing within five business days following the transmission of such facsimile filing. Each report required in the election year shall contain cumulative totals of all contributions which have been received and all expenditures which have been made in support of the campaign in question and which are required, or previously have been required, to be reported.

(d) In the event any candidate covered by this chapter has no opposition in either a primary or a general election and receives no contribution of more than \$100.00, such candidate shall only be required to make the initial and final report as required under this chapter.

(d.1)(1) In the event a candidate for nomination or election to a public office listed in subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 or the chairperson or treasurer of a campaign committee organized to bring about the nomination or election of such candidate signs and files with the appropriate official specified by paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (a) of this Code section a written notice that such candidate or campaign committee does not intend to accept during such election cycle a combined total of contributions exceeding \$2,500.00 for the campaign nor make a combined total of expenditures exceeding \$2,500.00 for the campaign in such election cycle, then such candidate or campaign committee shall not be required to file a report under this Code section. The appropriate official shall transmit an electronic copy of the written notice by eFiling or eFax to the commission within ten days of receipt of such notice. The failure of the appropriate official to timely transmit such copy of the written notice to the commission shall not disqualify the candidate or campaign committee from the exemption from report filing provided by this paragraph.

(2) If such candidate or campaign committee exceeds the \$2,500.00 limit for either accepting contributions or making expenditures for such campaign during such election cycle as specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection but does not accept a combined total of contributions exceeding \$5,000.00 in such election cycle nor make expenditures exceeding \$5,000.00 in such election

cycle, then such candidate or campaign committee shall be required to file only the June 30 and December 31 reports required by paragraph (2) of subsection (c) of this Code section. The first such report shall include all contributions received and expenditures made beginning January 1 of such calendar year.

(3) If such candidate or campaign committee accepts a combined total of contributions exceeding \$5,000.00 or makes expenditures exceeding \$5,000.00 for such campaign during any such election cycle, then such candidate or campaign committee chairperson or treasurer shall thereupon be subject to the reporting requirements of this Code section the same as if the written notice authorized by this subsection had not been filed.

(e) Any person who makes contributions to, accepts contributions for, or makes expenditures on behalf of candidates, and any independent committee, shall file a registration in the same manner as is required of campaign committees prior to accepting or making contributions or expenditures. Such persons, other than independent committees, shall also file campaign contribution disclosure reports at the same times as required of the candidates they are supporting. The following persons shall be exempt from the foregoing registration and reporting requirements:

(1) Individuals making aggregate contributions of \$25,000.00 or less directly to candidates or the candidates' campaign committees in one calendar year;

(2) Persons other than individuals making aggregate contributions and expenditures to or on behalf of candidates of \$25,000.00 or less in one calendar year; and

(3) Contributors who make contributions to only one candidate during one calendar year.

(f)(1) Any independent committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures for the purpose of affecting the outcome of an election or advocates the election or defeat of any candidate shall register with the commission prior to accepting contributions or making expenditures and shall file disclosure reports as follows:

(A) On the first day of each of the two calendar months preceding any such election;

(B) Two weeks prior to the date of such election; and

(C) Within the two-week period prior to the date of such election the independent committee shall report within two business days any contributions or expenditure of more than \$1,000.00.

The independent committee shall file a final report prior to December 31 of the election year and shall file supplemental reports on June 30 and December 31 of each year that such independent committee continues to accept contributions or make expenditures.

(2) Reports filed by independent committees shall list the following:

(A) The amount and date of receipt, along with the name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of any person making a contribution of more than \$100.00;

(B) The name, mailing address, occupation, and employer of any person to whom an expenditure or provision of goods or services of the value of more than \$100.00 is made and the amount, date, and general purpose thereof, including the name of the candidate or candidates, if any, on behalf of whom, or in support of or in opposition to whom, the expenditure or provision was made;

(C) Total expenditures made as follows:

(i) Expenditures shall be reported for the applicable reporting year;

- (ii) The first report of a reporting year shall list the total expenditures made during the period covered by the report; and
 - (iii) Subsequent reports shall list the total expenditures made during the period covered by the report, the cumulative total of expenditures made during the reporting year, and net balance on hand; and
 - (D) The corporate, labor union, or other affiliation of any political action committee, candidate, campaign committee, or independent committee making a contribution of the value of more than \$100.00.
- (3) Whenever any independent committee makes an expenditure for the purpose of financing any communication intended to affect the outcome of an election, such communication shall clearly state that it has been financed by such independent committee.
- (g) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed to bring about the recall of a public officer or to oppose the recall of a public officer shall file campaign contribution disclosure reports as follows:
- (1) An initial report shall be filed within 15 days after the date when the official recall petition forms were issued to the sponsors;
 - (2) A second report shall be filed 45 days after the filing of the initial report;
 - (3) A third report shall be filed within 20 days after the election superintendent certifies legal sufficiency or insufficiency of a recall petition; and
 - (4) A final report shall be filed prior to December 31 of the year in which the recall election is held or, in any case where such recall election is not held, a final report shall be filed prior to December 31 of any year in which such campaign committee accepts such contributions or makes such expenditures.
- (h) Any campaign committee which accepts contributions or makes expenditures designed to bring about the approval or rejection by the voters of a proposed constitutional amendment or a state-wide referendum shall file a campaign contribution disclosure report 75, 45, and 15 days prior to the date of the election and shall file a final report prior to December 31 of the election year.
- (i)(1) Any person elected to a public office who is required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports pursuant to this article shall, upon leaving public office with excess contributions, be required to file supplemental campaign contribution disclosure reports on June 30 and December 31 of each year until such contributions are expended in a campaign for elective office or used as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section 21-5-33.
 - (2) Any person who is an unsuccessful candidate in an election and who is required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports pursuant to this article shall for the remainder of the election cycle file such reports at the same times as a successful candidate and thereafter, upon having excess contributions from such campaign, be required to file a supplemental campaign contribution disclosure report no later than December 31 of each year until such contributions are expended in a campaign for elective office or used as provided in subsection (b) of Code Section 21-5-33. Any unsuccessful candidate in an election who is required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports pursuant to this article and who receives contributions following such election to retire debts incurred in such campaign for elective office shall be required to file

a supplemental campaign contribution disclosure report no later than December 31 of each year until such unpaid expenditures from such campaign are satisfied.

(j) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, soil and water conservation district supervisors elected pursuant to Article 2 of Chapter 6 of Title 2, the 'Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law,' shall not be required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports under this Code section.

(k)(1) In addition to other penalties provided under this chapter, a late fee of \$125.00 shall be imposed by the person or entity with which filing is required for each report that is filed late, and notice of such late fee shall be sent to the candidate and the candidate's committee in the same manner by which the penalized report was filed with the commission. However, if the report in question was not filed or was filed with the commission in a manner other than electronic filing or certified mail, return receipt requested, the commission shall utilize certified mail, return receipt requested, to notify the candidate and the candidate's committee of the late fee due. The notice shall include the schedule of increasing late fees for late filings and the dates upon which such late fees shall be increased. In addition, a late fee of \$250.00 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date for such report if the report has not been filed by such date. A late fee of \$1,000.00 shall be imposed on the forty-fifth day after the due date for such report if such report has not been filed. Notice by electronic means does not satisfy the requirements of this paragraph; and any increased late fees shall be stayed until at least ten days after proper notice has been given as specified in this paragraph.

(2) The commission shall retain \$25.00 of the first late fee received by the commission for processing pursuant to the provisions of Code Section 45-12-92.1.

(l) It shall be the duty of the commission or other official when it receives for filing any disclosure report or statement or other document that may be filed by mail to maintain with the filed document a copy of the postal markings or statutory overnight delivery service markings of any envelope, package, or wrapping in which the document was delivered for filing if mailed or sent after the date such filing was due.

(m) Except when electronic filing is required, the mailing of such reports by United States mail with adequate postage affixed within the required filing time as determined by the official United States postage date cancellation shall be prima-facie evidence of filing. Any person or entity which is required to be registered under this Code section shall file a termination statement together with its final campaign contribution disclosure report as required by this Code section within ten days of the dissolution of a campaign or committee. The termination statement shall identify the person responsible for maintaining campaign records as required by this chapter.

(n) Reserved.

21-5-34.1. Filing campaign contribution disclosure reports electronically.

(a) Candidates, candidate committees, and public officers who are required to file campaign contribution disclosure reports with the commission shall use electronic means to file such reports with the commission using means prescribed by the commission to file such reports.

(b) The filing of any campaign disclosure report required under this article shall constitute an affirmation that such report is true, complete, and correct.

(c) Candidates seeking election to county or municipal offices may use electronic means to file their campaign contribution disclosure reports if such method is made available or may file by certified mail, statutory overnight delivery, or personal delivery.

(d) Political action committees, independent committees, and any persons otherwise required by this article to file campaign contribution disclosure reports shall use electronic means to file such reports if such method is made available.

(e) The filing of any campaign contribution disclosure report required under this article shall constitute an affirmation that the report is true, complete, and correct.

21-5-35. Acceptance of contributions or pledges during legislative sessions.

(a) No member of the General Assembly or that member's campaign committee or public officer elected state wide or campaign committee of such public officer shall seek or accept a contribution or a pledge of a contribution to the member, the member's campaign committee, or public officer elected state wide, or campaign committee of such public officer during a legislative session.

(b) Subsection (a) of this Code section shall not apply to:

(1) The receipt of a contribution which is returned with reasonable promptness to the donor or the donor's agent;

(2) The receipt and acceptance during a legislative session of a contribution consisting of proceeds from a dinner, luncheon, rally, or similar fundraising event held prior to the legislative session;

(3) The receipt of a contribution by a political party consisting of the proceeds from a dinner, luncheon, rally, or similar fundraising event in which a member of the General Assembly or a public officer elected state wide participates; or

(4) A judicial officer elected state wide, a candidate for a judicial office elected state wide, or a campaign committee of such judicial officer or candidate.

21-5-36. Disposition of reports; handling of complaints and violations.

(a)(1) It shall be the duty of the commission to make the campaign contribution disclosure reports available for public inspection and copying during regular office hours commencing as soon as practicable after such reports are filed. The commission shall have the authority to charge a fee for copying such reports not to exceed the actual cost of such copying. The commission shall preserve such reports for a period of five years from the date upon which they are received.

(2) A qualifying officer shall notify the commission in writing of the names and addresses of all candidates and offices sought in any election within ten days of the close of the qualification period.

(b) After receiving original reports, the commission has the duty to inspect each report filed by candidates or by a campaign committee for conformity with the law and to notify the candidate or campaign committee immediately if the report does not conform with the law or is in technical violation of filing requirements. Such notification shall be by electronic means and regular United States mail.

(c) Within ten business days of the close of the qualification period, qualifying officers shall electronically report to the commission the names and addresses of all candidates and offices sought by each candidate in an election and the qualifying date for such candidate.

**TITLE 21, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 2A
CONTRIBUTIONS TO CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC OFFICE**

21-5-40. Definitions.

As used in this article, the term:

- (1) "Affiliated committees" means any two or more political committees (including a separate segregated fund) established, financed, maintained, or controlled by the same business entity, labor organization, person, or group of persons, including any parent, subsidiary, branch, division, department, or local unit thereof.
- (2) "Affiliated corporation" means with respect to any business entity any other business entity related thereto: as a parent business entity; as a subsidiary business entity; as a sister business entity; by common ownership or control; or by control of one business entity by the other.
- (3) "Business entity" shall have the same meaning as provided in Code Section 21-5-3.
- (4) Reserved.
- (5) "Person" means an individual.
- (6) "Political committee" means: (A) any partnership, committee, club, association, organization, party caucus of the House of Representatives or the Senate, or similar entity (other than a business entity) or any other group of persons or entities which makes a contribution; or (B) any separate segregated fund.
 - (6.1) "Political party" means any political party as that term is defined in paragraph (25) of Code Section 21-2-2, as amended; provided, however, that for purposes of this article, local, state, and national committees shall be separate political parties.
 - (6.2) "Public office" means the office of each elected public officer as specified in paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3.
- (7) "Separate segregated fund" means a fund which is established, administered, and used for political purposes by a business entity, labor organization, membership organization, or cooperative and to which the business entity, labor organization, membership organization, or cooperative solicits contributions.

21-5-41. Maximum allowable contributions.

(a) No person, corporation, political committee, or political party shall make, and no candidate or campaign committee shall receive from any such entity, contributions to any candidate for state-wide elected office which in the aggregate for an election cycle exceed:

- (1) Five thousand dollars for a primary election;
- (2) Three thousand dollars for a primary run-off election;
- (3) Five thousand dollars for a general election; and
- (4) Three thousand dollars for a general election runoff.

(b) No person, corporation, political committee, or political party shall make, and no candidate or campaign committee shall receive from any such entity, contributions to any candidate for the General Assembly or public office other than state-wide elected office which in the aggregate for an election cycle exceed:

- (1) Two thousand dollars for a primary election;
- (2) One thousand dollars for a primary run-off election;
- (3) Two thousand dollars for a general election; and
- (4) One thousand dollars for a general election runoff.

(c) No business entity shall make any election contributions to any candidate which when aggregated with contributions to the same candidate for the same election from any affiliated corporations exceed the per election maximum allowable contribution limits for such candidate as specified in subsection (a) of this Code section.

(d) Candidates and campaign committees may separately account for contributions pursuant to Code Section 21-5-43. Candidates and campaign committees not separately accounting for contributions pursuant to such Code section shall not accept contributions for any election in an election cycle prior to the conclusion of the immediately preceding election in such cycle; provided, however, that contributions may be accepted for a primary election at any time in the election cycle prior to and including the date of such primary election. Upon conclusion of each election, contributions remaining unexpended may be expended on succeeding elections in the election cycle, and contributions not exceeding the contribution limits of this Code section may continue to be accepted for repayment of campaign obligations incurred as a candidate in that election except as provided in subsection (h) of this Code section.

(e) Candidates and campaign committees shall designate on their disclosure reports the election for which a contribution has been accepted. Any contribution not so designated shall be presumed to have been accepted for the election on or first following the date of the contribution.

(f) A contribution by a partnership shall be deemed to have been made pro rata by the partners as individuals for purposes of this Code section, as well as by the partnership in toto unless the partnership by proper action under its partnership agreement otherwise directs allocation of the contribution among the partners. At such direction of the partnership, the contribution may be allocated in any proportion among the partners, including to one or some but not all. Such allocation shall be indicated on the face of any instrument constituting the contribution or on an accompanying document referencing such instrument.

(g) The contribution limitations established by this Code section shall not apply to a loan or other contribution made to a campaign committee or candidate by the candidate or a member of the family of the candidate.

(h) Any candidate or campaign committee who incurs loans on or after January 9, 2006, in connection with the candidate's campaign for election shall not repay, directly or indirectly, such loans from any contributions made to such candidate or any authorized committee of such candidate after the date of the election for which the loan was made to the extent that such loans exceed \$250,000.00.

- (i) The contribution limits established by this Code section shall not apply to a bona fide loan made to a candidate or campaign committee by a state or federally chartered financial institution or a depository institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation if:
 - (1) Such loan is made in the normal course of business with the expectation on the part of all parties that such loan shall be repaid; and
 - (2) Such loan is based on the credit worthiness of the candidate and the candidate is personally liable for the repayment of the loan.
- (j) The contribution limitations provided for in this Code section shall not include contributions or expenditures made by a political party in support of a party ticket or a group of named candidates.
- (k) At the end of the election cycle applicable to each public office as to which campaign contributions are limited by this Code section and every four years for all other elections to which this Code section is applicable, the contribution limitations in this Code section shall be raised or lowered in increments of \$100.00 by regulation of the commission pursuant to a determination by the commission of inflation or deflation during such cycle or four-year period, as determined by the Consumer Price Index published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, and such limitations shall apply until next revised by the commission. The commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the implementation of this subsection.

21-5-42. Contribution to campaign committee deemed contribution to candidate; rules for construction.

For purposes of this article, a contribution to a campaign committee of a candidate for any public office shall be deemed to be a contribution to such candidate. If during any calendar year there occur both a special election including a special primary, special primary runoff, and special election runoff as appropriate and a general election for the same public office and if the same person is a candidate for nomination or election at both such special election including a special primary, special primary runoff, and special election runoff as appropriate and such general election, then this Code section shall apply. Where this Code section applies, a person, corporation, political committee, or political party may contribute up to the maximum amount otherwise allowable under this article to such person or such person's campaign committee for the purpose of influencing such candidate's nomination or election at the special primary, special primary runoff, special election, or special election runoff; and the same person, corporation, political committee, or political party may contribute up to the maximum amount otherwise allowable under this article for the purpose of influencing such candidate's election at the general election or general election runoff. This Code section shall be construed according to the following rules:

- (1) It is the general intent of this Code section to allow a person who is a candidate for election at both a special election and a general election in the same calendar year to receive up to but no more than twice the amount of contributions which could otherwise be received from any one donor during the year; and
- (2) Seeking nomination at a special primary or general primary shall be considered as seeking election at the ensuing special election or general election for the purpose of determining whether a person is a candidate for election at both the special election and the general election and

allowing the application of this Code section; but seeking election at only a single primary and its ensuing election shall not bring this Code section into effect.

21-5-43. Accounting for and expenditure of campaign contributions.

- (a)(1) A candidate or campaign committee may separately account for contributions for each election in an election cycle for which contributions are accepted. If no contributions are accepted for an election, no corresponding accounting shall be required. Subject to the contribution limits of this chapter, contributions so separately accounted for may be accepted at any time in the election cycle. Upon the conclusion of each election, contributions not exceeding such limits may continue to be accepted for repayment of campaign obligations incurred as a candidate in that election.
- (2) A candidate who wishes to accept contributions for more than one election at a time shall separately account for such campaign contributions and shall file an "Option to Choose Separate Accounting" form with the commission prior to accepting contributions for any election other than the candidate's next upcoming election; provided, however, that a candidate shall only be required to file one such form which shall be utilized for all subsequent elections to the same elective office, regardless of whether an election occurs in a new election cycle.
- (3) A candidate who accepts contributions for more than one election at a time may allocate contributions received from a single contributor to any election in the election cycle, provided that the contributions shall not violate maximum allowable contribution limits for any election; provided, however, that in order to allocate contributions to a past election, the candidate shall have outstanding campaign debt from the previous election.
- (b) Contributions separately accounted for shall not be expended on a prior election except in conformance with this Code section. Contributions separately accounted for in a primary election may be expended at any time during the election cycle prior to and including the date of the primary.
- (c) Contributions remaining unexpended after the date of the election may be expended for any future election in the same election cycle without regard to the limitations of Code Section 21-5-41. If there are no further elections in the election cycle or if the candidate or the candidate of the campaign committee is not on the ballot of a further election in the election cycle, such contributions may be used only as provided in Code Section 21-5-33.
- (d) Contributions accepted and separately accounted for in an election which does not occur or for which the candidate does not qualify, if unexpended, shall be returned to the contributors thereof pro rata without interest. Any portion thereof which cannot be returned to the original contributor thereof shall be expended only as provided in Code Section 21-5-33.
- (e) The commission shall adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to carry out the purposes of this Code section in accordance with Chapter 13 of Title 50, the "Georgia Administrative Procedure Act."

**TITLE 21, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 3
FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS**

21-5-50. Filing by public officers; filing by candidates for public office; filing by elected officials and members of the General Assembly; electronic filing; transfer of filings from the Secretary of State to the commission.

(a)(1) Except as modified in subsection (c) of this Code section with respect to candidates for state-wide elected public office, each public officer, as defined in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall file with the commission not before the first day of January nor later than July 1 of each year in which such public officer holds office other than an election year a financial disclosure statement for the preceding calendar year; and each person who qualifies as a candidate for election as a public officer, as defined in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall file with the commission, no later than the fifteenth day following the date of qualifying as a candidate, a financial disclosure statement for the preceding calendar year.

(2) Except as set forth in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a public officer, as defined in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall not be required to file a financial disclosure statement pursuant to this Code section. Each such public officer shall, however, be deemed to be a public official for purposes of Code Section 45-10-26 and shall be subject to the disclosure requirements set forth in Code Section 45-10-26. In addition, each such public officer shall file with the commission, prior to January 31 each year, an affidavit confirming that such public officer took no official action in the previous calendar year that had a material effect on such public officer's private financial or business interests.

(3) A public officer, as defined in subparagraph (E) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, who serves as a member of the commission shall be subject to the requirements for filing financial disclosure statements set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection. In addition, each such public officer shall file with the commission, together with the financial disclosure statement, an affidavit confirming that such public officer took no official action in the previous calendar year that had a material effect on such public officer's private financial or business interests.

(3.1) A public officer, as defined in subparagraphs (F) and (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, shall make filings of the same kind and in the same manner as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection for other public officers except that filings under this paragraph shall be made with the election superintendent of the county in the case of public officers as defined in said subparagraph (F) and shall be made with the municipal clerk in the municipality of election or, if there is no clerk, with the chief executive officer of the municipality in the case of public officers as defined in said subparagraph (G). The election superintendent, municipal clerk, or chief executive officer, as applicable, shall transmit, electronically by eFiling or eFax, a copy of each such report to the commission not later than 30 days after the close of the reporting period. No fine, fee, or sanction, including but not limited to identifying a public officer as having filed late or failed to file, shall be imposed by the commission on the public officer for the failure of the election superintendent, municipal clerk, or chief executive officer to timely transmit a copy of such report.

- (4) Each member of the State Transportation Board shall file a financial disclosure statement for the preceding calendar year no later than the sixtieth day following such member's election to the State Transportation Board. Thereafter, each board member shall file by January 31 of each year a financial disclosure statement for the preceding year. In addition, each board member shall file with the commission, prior to January 31 of each year, an affidavit confirming that such board member took no official action in the previous calendar year that had a material effect on such board member's private financial or business interests.
- (5) The commission or the applicable official under paragraph (3.1) of this subsection shall review each financial disclosure statement to determine that such statement is in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.
- (6) A public officer shall not, however, be required to file such a financial disclosure statement for the preceding calendar year in an election year if such public officer does not qualify for nomination for election to succeed himself or herself or for election to any other public office subject to this chapter. For purposes of this paragraph, a public officer shall not be deemed to hold office in a year in which the public officer holds office for fewer than 15 days.
- (b) A financial disclosure statement shall be in the form specified by the commission and shall identify:
- (1) Each monetary fee or honorarium which is accepted by a filer from speaking engagements, participation in seminars, discussion panels, or other activities which directly relate to the official duties of the filer or the office of the public officer, with a statement identifying the fee or honorarium accepted and the person from whom it was accepted;
 - (2) All fiduciary positions held by the candidate for public office or the filer, with a statement of the title of each such position, the name and address of the business entity, and the principal activity of the business entity;
 - (3) The name, address, and principal activity of any business entity or investment, exclusive of the names of individual stocks and bonds in mutual funds, and the office held by and the duties of the candidate for public office or filer within such business entity as of December 31 of the covered year in which such candidate or officer has a direct ownership interest which:
 - (A) Is more than 5 percent of the total interests in such business; or
 - (B) Has a net fair market value of \$5,000.00 or more;
 - (4)(A) Each tract of real property in which the candidate for public office or filer has a direct ownership interest as of December 31 of the covered year when that interest has a fair market value of \$5,000.00 or more. As used in this paragraph, the term "fair market" value means the appraised value of the property for ad valorem tax purposes. The disclosure shall contain the county and state, general description of the property, and whether the fair market value is between (i) \$5,000.00 and \$100,000.00; (ii) \$100,000.01 and \$200,000.00; or (iii) more than \$200,000.00.
 - (B) Each tract of real property in which the candidate for public office's spouse or filer's spouse has a direct ownership interest as of December 31 of the covered year when that interest has a fair market value of \$5,000.00 or more. The disclosure shall contain the county and state, general description of the property, and whether the fair market value is between (i) \$5,000.00 and \$100,000.00; (ii) \$100,000.01 to \$200,000.00; (iii) or more than \$200,000.00;

- (5) The filer's occupation, employer, and the principal activity and address of such employer;
- (6) The filer's spouse's name, occupation, employer, and the principal activity and address of such employer;
- (7) If the filer has actual knowledge of such ownership interest, the name of any business or subsidiary thereof or investment, exclusive of the individual stocks, bonds, or mutual funds, as of December 31 of the covered year in which the filer's spouse or dependent children, jointly or severally, own a direct ownership interest which:
 - (A) Is more than 5 percent of the total interests in such business or investment, exclusive of the individual stocks and bonds in mutual funds; or
 - (B) Has a net fair market value of more than \$10,000.00or in which the filer's spouse or any dependent child serves as an officer, director, equitable partner, or trustee; and
- (8)(A) As used in this paragraph, the term 'agency' has the meaning provided by Code Section 45-10-20.
 - (B) All annual payments in excess of \$10,000.00 received by the filer or any business entity identified in paragraph (3) of this subsection from the state, any agency, department, commission, or authority created by the state, and authorized and exempted from disclosure under Code Section 45-10-25, and the agency, department, commission, or authority making the payments, and the general nature of the consideration rendered for the source of the payments. This paragraph shall not require the disclosure of payments which have already been disclosed for purposes of any other provision of this chapter.
- (c)(1) Each person who qualifies with a political party as a candidate for party nomination to a public office elected state wide (including an incumbent public officer elected state wide qualifying to succeed himself or herself) shall file with the commission, not later than seven days after so qualifying, a financial disclosure statement. Each person who qualifies as a candidate for election to a public office elected state wide through a nomination petition or convention shall likewise file a financial disclosure statement not later than seven days after filing his or her notice of candidacy. Such financial disclosure statement shall comply with the requirements of subsections (a) and (b) of this Code section and shall in addition identify, for the preceding five calendar years:
 - (A) Each transaction or transactions which aggregate \$9,000.00 or more in a calendar year in which the candidate (whether for himself or herself or on behalf of any business) or any business in which such candidate or any member of his or her family has a substantial interest or is an officer of such business has transacted business with the government of the State of Georgia, the government of any political subdivision of the State of Georgia, or any agency of any such government; and
 - (B) Each transaction or transactions which aggregate \$9,000.00 or more in a calendar year in which the candidate or any business in which such candidate or any member of his or her family has a substantial interest or is an officer of such business received any income of any nature from any person who was at the time of such receipt of income represented by a lobbyist registered with the commission pursuant to Article 4 of this chapter.

- (2) The financial disclosure statement required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall include an itemized list of the transactions required to be reported, including the date of, dollar amount of, and parties to each such transaction. However, with respect to any transactions of a privileged nature only the total amount of such transactions shall be required to be reported, and names, dates, amounts of individual transactions, and other identifying data may be omitted; and for this purpose "transactions of a privileged nature" shall include transactions between attorney and client, transactions between psychiatrist and patient, transactions between physician and patient, and any other transactions which are by law of a similar privileged and confidential nature.
- (3) The financial disclosure statement required by paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be accompanied by a financial statement of the candidate's financial affairs for the calendar year prior to the year in which the election is held and the first quarter of the calendar year in which the election is held.
- (4) As used in this subsection, the term:
- (A) "Agency" means any agency, authority, department, board, bureau, commission, committee, office, or instrumentality of the State of Georgia or any political subdivision of the State of Georgia.
 - (B) "Financial statement" means a statement of a candidate's financial affairs in a form substantially equivalent to the short form financial statement required for bank directors under the rules of the Department of Banking and Finance.
 - (C) "Person" and "transact business" shall have the meanings specified in Code Section 45-10-20.
 - (D) "Substantial interest" means the direct or indirect ownership of 10 percent or more of the assets or stock of any business.
- (5) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subsection, if, due to a special election or otherwise, a person does not qualify as a candidate for nomination or election to public office until after the filing date otherwise applicable, such person shall make the filings required by this subsection within seven days after so qualifying.
- (d) All state-wide elected officials and members of the General Assembly shall file financial disclosure statements electronically with the commission. Local officials referred to in subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 may file electronically if such method is made available or may file by certified mail, statutory overnight delivery, or personal delivery. Except when electronic filing is required, the mailing of the notarized financial disclosure statement by United States mail with adequate postage affixed within the required filing time as determined by the official United States postage date cancellation shall be prima-facie evidence of filing.
- (e) The filing of any financial disclosure statement required under this article shall constitute an affirmation that the statement is true, complete, and correct.
- (f)(1) In addition to other penalties provided in this chapter, a late fee of \$125.00 shall be imposed by the person or entity with which filing is required for each financial disclosure statement that is filed late, and notice of such late fee shall be sent to the board member, candidate, and the candidate's committee in the same manner by which the penalized report was filed with the commission. However, if the report in question was not filed or was filed with the commission

in a manner other than electronic filing or certified mail, return receipt requested, the commission shall use certified mail, return receipt requested, to notify the candidate and the candidate's committee of the late fee due. The notice shall include the schedule of increasing late fees for late filings and the dates upon which such late fees shall be increased. In addition, a late fee of \$250.00 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date for such statement if such statement has not been filed. A late fee of \$1,000.00 shall be imposed on the forty-fifth day after the due date for such statement if the statement has not been filed. Campaign committee funds shall not be used to pay such penalty. Notice by electronic means shall not satisfy the requirements of this paragraph; and any increased late fees shall be stayed until at least ten days after proper notice has been given as specified in this paragraph.

(2) The commission shall retain \$25.00 of the first late fee received by the commission for processing pursuant to the provisions of Code Section 45-12-92.1.

(g) Reserved.

21-5-51. Inspection and copying of financial disclosure statements.

Financial disclosure statements filed pursuant to this article shall be public records and shall be subject to inspection and copying by any member of the public as provided by law for other public records.

TITLE 21, CHAPTER 5, ARTICLE 4
PUBLIC OFFICIALS' CONDUCT AND LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE
SELECTED PORTIONS OF ARTICLE

21-5-70. Definitions.

As used in this article, the term:

(1) "Expenditure":

(A) Means a purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or conveyance of money or anything of value made for the purpose of influencing the actions of any public officer, specifically including any such transaction which is made on behalf of or for the benefit of a public employee for the purpose of influencing a public officer;

(B) Includes any other form of payment when such can be reasonably construed as designed to encourage or influence a public officer;

(B.1) Includes reimbursement or payment of expenses exceeding \$75.00 provided to a public officer from any individual lobbyist for transportation, travel, lodging, registration, food, and beverages;

(C) Includes any gratuitous transfer, payment, subscription, advance, or deposit of money, services, tickets for admission to athletic, sporting, recreational, musical concert, or other entertainment events, or anything of value, unless consideration of equal or greater than face value is received;

(D) Includes reimbursement or payment of expenses for recreational or leisure activities; and

(E) Does not include anything defined in paragraph (4.1) of this Code section as a lobbying expenditure, the provisions of subparagraphs (A) through (D) of this paragraph notwithstanding.

(2) "Filed" means the delivery to the commission, as specified in this article, of a document that satisfies the requirements of this article. A document is considered delivered when it is electronically delivered to the commission or placed in the United States mail within the required filing time, properly addressed to the commission, as specified in this article, with adequate postage affixed.

(3) "Identifiable group of public officers" means a description that is specifically determinable by available public records.

(4) "Lobbying" means the activity of a lobbyist while acting in that capacity.

(4.1) "Lobbying expenditure" means:

(A) Promotional items generally distributed to the general public or to public officers and food and beverages produced in Georgia;

(B) An award, plaque, certificate, memento, or similar item given in recognition of the recipient's civic, charitable, political, professional, or public service;

(C) Discounts, upgrades, memberships, or other accommodations extended by a business to a bona fide customer; or legitimate salary, benefits, fees, commissions, or expenses associated with a recipient's nonpublic business, employment, trade, or profession;

(D) Food, beverages, and registration at group events to which all members of an agency, as defined in paragraph (1) of subsection (a) of Code Section 21-5-30.2, are invited. For purposes of this subparagraph, an agency shall also include the House of Representatives, the Senate, standing committees of such bodies but not for more than one of such group events per committee per calendar year, caucuses of members of the majority or minority political parties of the House or Senate, other caucuses of the House or Senate as approved by the House Committee on Ethics or the Senate Ethics Committee, and the governing body of each political subdivision of this state;

(E) Campaign contributions or expenditures as defined by Code Section 21-5-3 and reported as required by Article 2 of this chapter;

(F) Reimbursement or payment of actual and reasonable expenses provided to a public officer and his or her necessary public employee staff members for such public officer's and staff members' individual transportation, lodging, travel, and registration for attending educational, informational, charitable, or civic meetings or conferences that are held at locations within the United States and directly relate to the official duties of that public officer or the office of that public officer, plus food and beverages for such public officer, his or her necessary public employee staff members, and spouse while attending such educational, informational, charitable, or civic meetings or conferences;

(G) Anything which:

(i) Does not qualify as a lobbying expenditure under subparagraphs (A) through (F) of this paragraph; and

(ii) Would qualify as an expenditure under subparagraph (B.1) of paragraph (1) of this Code section except that it does not exceed an amount or value of \$75.00 per person.

(5) "Lobbyist" means:

(A) Any natural person who, either individually or as an employee of another person, receives or anticipates receiving more than \$250.00 per calendar year in compensation or reimbursement

or payment of expenses specifically for undertaking to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(B) Any natural person who makes a lobbying expenditure of more than \$1,000.00 in a calendar year, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material, to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(C) Reserved;

(D) Any natural person who, either individually or as an employee of another person, is compensated specifically for undertaking to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

(E) Any natural person who makes a lobbying expenditure of more than \$1,000.00 in a calendar year, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material, to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

(F) Any natural person who as an employee of local government engages in any activity covered under subparagraph (D) of this paragraph;

(G) Any natural person who, for compensation, either individually or as an employee of another person, is hired specifically to undertake influencing a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency but does not include any employee or independent contractor of the vendor solely on the basis that such employee or independent contractor participates in soliciting a bid or in preparing a written bid, written proposal, or other document relating to a potential sale to a state agency and shall not include a bona fide salesperson who sells to or contracts with a state agency for goods or services and who does not otherwise engage in activities described in subparagraphs (A) through (F) or (H) through (I) of this paragraph;

(H) Any natural person who, either individually or as an employee of another person, is compensated specifically for undertaking to promote or oppose the passage of any rule or regulation of any state agency;

(I) Any natural person who, either individually or as an employee of another person, is compensated specifically for undertaking to promote or oppose any matter before the State Transportation Board; or

(J) Any natural person who makes a lobbying expenditure of more than \$1,000.00 in a calendar year, not including the person's own travel, food, lodging expenses, or informational material, to promote or oppose any matter before the State Transportation Board.

(6) "Public officer" means a member of the State Transportation Board and those public officers specified under paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, except as otherwise provided in this article and also includes any public officer or employee who has any discretionary authority over, or is

a member of a public body which has any discretionary authority over, the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency.

(7) "State agency" means any branch of state government or any agency, authority, department, board, bureau, commission, council, corporation, entity, or instrumentality of this state or of a local political subdivision of this state.

(8) "Vendor" means any person who sells to or contracts with any state agency for the provision of any goods or services.

21-5-72.1. Regulation of certain contact between lobbyists and members of the General Assembly; making or acceptance of certain expenditures.

(a) No person who is required by the law of this state to register as a lobbyist shall meet at the state capitol, Coverdell Legislative Office Building, or other state government facility with any member of the General Assembly to discuss the promotion or opposition of the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the override of a veto unless such person either is wearing his or her valid official registered lobbyist badge or is a resident of the House or Senate district which such member represents.

(b)(1) No person who is registered as a lobbyist under Code Section 21-5-71 shall make any expenditure.

(2) No public officer shall with actual knowledge accept any expenditure from a person who is registered as a lobbyist under Code Section 21-5-71.

21-5-73. Disclosure reports.

(a) Each lobbyist registered under this article shall file disclosure reports as provided for in this Code section in the electronic format specified by the commission.

(b) A person who is required to register under this article and lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor shall file a semimonthly disclosure report on the first and fifteenth day of each month, current through the end of the preceding report, beginning January 15 and continuing throughout the period that the General Assembly is in session.

(c) A person who is required to register under this article and lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution shall:

(1) File a disclosure report, current through the end of the preceding month, on or before the fifth day of May, September, and January of each year instead of the reports required by subsections (b) and (d) of this Code section; and

(2) File such report with the commission, file a copy of such report with the election superintendent of each county involved if the report contains any lobbying expenditures relating to county or county school district affairs, and file a copy of such report with the municipal clerk (or if there is no municipal clerk, with the chief executive officer of the municipality) of each

municipality involved if the report contains any lobbying expenditures relating to municipal affairs or independent school district affairs.

(d) A person who is required to register under this article and:

(1) Lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any legislation by the General Assembly, or any committee of either chamber or a joint committee thereof, or the approval or veto of legislation by the Governor;

(2) As an employee of the executive branch or judicial branch of local government, lobbies to promote or oppose the passage of any ordinance or resolution by a public officer specified under subparagraph (F) or (G) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, or any committee of such public officers, or the approval or veto of any such ordinance or resolution;

(3) Lobbies to influence a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency; or

(4) Lobbies to promote or oppose any matter before the State Transportation Board shall file a monthly disclosure report, current through the end of the preceding period, on or before the fifth day of each month; provided, however, that such monthly reports shall not be filed during any period that the lobbyist files a semimonthly report pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section.

(e) Reports filed by lobbyists shall be verified and shall include:

(1) A description of all lobbying expenditures described in subparagraphs (D), (F), and (G) of paragraph (4.1) of Code Section 21-5-70, or the value thereof made on behalf of or for the benefit of a public officer or on behalf of or for the benefit of a public employee for the purpose of influencing a public officer by the lobbyist or employees of the lobbyist or by any person on whose behalf the lobbyist is registered if the lobbyist has actual knowledge of such lobbying expenditure. The description of each reported lobbying expenditure shall include:

(A) The name and title of the public officer or public employee or, if the lobbying expenditure is simultaneously incurred for an identifiable group of public officers or public employees the individual identification of whom would be impractical, a general description of that identifiable group;

(B) The amount, date, and description of the lobbying expenditure and a summary of all spending classified by category. Such categories shall include meals, lodging, travel, and tickets;

(C) The aggregate lobbying expenditures described in subparagraph (D) of paragraph (4.1) of Code Section 21-5-70 incurred during the reporting period; provided, however, that expenses for travel and for food, beverage, and lodging in connection therewith afforded a public officer or public employee shall be reported in the same manner as under subparagraphs (A), (B), and (D) of this paragraph;

(D) If applicable, the number of the bill, resolution, ordinance, or regulation pending before the governmental entity in support of or opposition to which the lobbying expenditure was made; and

(E) If applicable, the rule or regulation number or description of the rule or regulation pending before the state agency in support of or opposition to which the lobbying expenditure was made;

(1.1) In any case where lobbying expenditures are reported pursuant to subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) of this Code section for an identifiable group not listed in subparagraph (D) of

paragraph (1) of Code Section 21-5-70, the lobbyist shall certify on the disclosure report that no lobbying expenditure made on behalf of or for the benefit of any individual public officer exceeded \$75.00;

(2) For those who are required to register under this article and lobby to influence a public officer or state agency in the selection of a vendor to supply any goods or services to any state agency, the name of any vendor or vendors for which the lobbyist undertook to influence the awarding of a contract or contracts by any state agency together with a description of the contract or contracts and the monetary amount of the contract or contracts; and

(3) For those who are required to register under this article and lobby to promote or oppose the passage of any rule or regulation of any state agency, the name of the individual or entity for which the lobbyist undertook to influence the rule or regulation of a state agency.

(f) The reports required by this article shall be in addition to any reports required under Code Section 45-1-6, relating to required reports by state vendors of gifts to public employees. Compliance with this Code section shall not excuse noncompliance with that Code section, and compliance with that Code section shall not excuse noncompliance with this Code section, notwithstanding the fact that in some cases the same information may be required to be disclosed under both Code sections.

(g) The electronic filing of any disclosure report required by this article shall constitute an affirmation that such report is true, complete, and correct.

(h) Reserved.

(i) All lobbyists shall have a grace period of three business days in filing all disclosure reports.

21-5-74. Postemployment restrictions on lobbyists.

A lobbyist shall not be eligible for executive appointment to any board, authority, commission, or bureau created and established by the laws of this state which regulates the activities of a business, firm, corporation, or agency that the lobbyist represented until one year after the expiration of the lobbyist's registration for that business, firm, corporation, or agency.

21-5-75. Postemployment restrictions on public officers.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, on and after January 8, 2007, persons identified in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3 and the executive director of each state board, commission, or authority shall be prohibited from registering as a lobbyist or engaging in lobbying under this article for a period of one year after terminating such employment or leaving such office.

(b) The lobbying prohibition contained in subsection (a) of this Code section shall not apply to persons who terminate such employment or leave such office but who remain employed in state government.

21-5-76. Contingent fees for lobbying prohibited; unauthorized persons on the floor while the General Assembly is in session.

(a) No person, firm, corporation, or association shall retain or employ a lobbyist for compensation contingent, in whole or in part, upon the passage or defeat of any legislative measure, upon the

adoption or decision not to adopt any state agency rule or regulation, or upon the granting or awarding of any state contract. No lobbyist shall be employed for compensation contingent, in whole or in part, upon the passage or defeat of any legislation, upon the adoption or decision not to adopt any state agency rule or regulation, or upon the granting or awarding of any state contract.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any person registered pursuant to the requirements of this article or for any other person, except as authorized by the rules of the House of Representatives or Senate, to be on the floor of either chamber of the General Assembly while the same is in session.

TITLE 24
EVIDENCE
SELECTED PORTION OF TITLE

24-13-29. Legislators' exemption.

No member of the General Assembly of Georgia shall be compelled to attend and give testimony at any hearing or trial or to produce evidence while the General Assembly is in regular or extraordinary session.

TITLE 28
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SELECTED PORTIONS OF TITLE

28-1-4. Form and administration of oath of office to members.

(a) In addition to any other oath prescribed by law, each Senator and Representative, before taking the seat to which elected, shall take the following oath:

"I do hereby solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of this state and of the United States and, on all questions and measures which may come before me, I will so conduct myself, as will, in my judgment, be most conducive to the interests and prosperity of this state."

(b) The oath of office prescribed by subsection (a) of this Code section may be administered to the members of the General Assembly by any Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Court of Appeals, judge of the superior courts, or judge of the state courts. Such Justice or judge shall be procured by the person organizing each branch.

28-1-8. Salary and allowances of members and officers.

(a) Each member of the General Assembly shall receive an annual salary, as provided for in Code Section 45-7-4, to be paid in equal monthly installments. Upon complying with the requirements of paragraph (22) of subsection (a) of Code Section 45-7-4, each member shall also be reimbursed for those actual expenses incurred in the performance of duties for which reimbursement is provided in paragraph (22) of subsection (a) of Code Section 45-7-4. The Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall receive an additional amount per annum as provided for in Code

Section 45-7-4. The majority leader, the minority leader, the administration floor leader, and the assistant administration floor leaders of the House of Representatives and the majority leader, the minority leader, the administration floor leader, and the assistant administration floor leaders of the Senate shall each receive such additional amount per annum as shall be provided by resolution of the respective houses; but such amount for each shall not be greater than the additional amount provided by law for the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives. All of such additional amounts shall also be paid in equal monthly installments.

(b)(1) During regular and extraordinary sessions of the General Assembly, each member shall also receive a daily expense allowance. Each member shall also receive the mileage allowance for the use of a personal car when devoted to official business as provided for in Code Section 50-19-7, for not more than one round trip to and from the member's residence and the state capitol by the most practical route, per calendar week, or portion thereof, during each regular and extraordinary session. In the event a member travels by public carrier for any part of a round trip as provided above, such member shall receive a travel allowance of actual transportation costs for each such part in lieu of the mileage allowance. For each day's service within the state as a member of a standing committee or of an interim committee created by or pursuant to a resolution of either or both houses or as a member of a committee, board, bureau, commission, or other agency created by or pursuant to statute or the Constitution of Georgia, such member shall receive a daily expense allowance and the mileage allowance for the use of a personal car when devoted to official business as provided for in Code Section 50-19-7 or a travel allowance of actual transportation costs if traveling by public carrier. Any such member shall also be reimbursed for any conference or meeting registration fee incurred in the performance of his or her official duties as a member of any committee, board, bureau, commission, or other agency. In the event it becomes necessary for a committee to rent a meeting room in the performance of the duties of the committee, the committee chairperson must have prior written approval of the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House, or both, as the case may be, depending on the composition of the committee. The expense of such rental shall be billed to the committee. For each day's service out of state as a member of any committee, board, bureau, commission, or other agency, such member shall receive actual expenses as an expense allowance, plus the mileage allowance for the use of a personal car when devoted to official business as provided for in Code Section 50-19-7 or a travel allowance of actual transportation costs if traveling by public carrier or by rental motor vehicle. The amount of the daily expense allowances provided for in this paragraph shall be fixed by the Legislative Services Committee; provided, however, that the amount of the daily expense allowance shall remain at \$75.00 until changed by the Legislative Services Committee. The Legislative Services Committee shall periodically review, and when appropriate revise, the amount of the daily expense allowance. The amount of the daily expense allowance shall be fixed by the Legislative Services Committee in an amount which reasonably corresponds to the housing and meal expenses typically incurred by members in the performance of their duties; provided, however, that the amount so fixed shall not exceed the federal per diem rate in effect for the state capital as specified by the General Services Administration at the time that the committee acts.

(2) Transportation costs incurred by a member of the Senate for air travel within or without the state during the interim as a member of a committee, board, bureau, commission, or other agency

shall be reimbursed only if the incurring of such costs is approved under procedures established by the Senate Administrative Affairs Committee. Transportation costs incurred by a member of the House of Representatives for air travel within or without the state during the interim as a member of a committee, board, bureau, commission, or other agency shall be reimbursed only if the incurring of such costs is approved under procedures established by the Speaker of the House.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subsection to the contrary, reimbursement of authorized transportation costs incurred by a member of the General Assembly for air travel inside or outside the state at any time shall be limited to the amounts provided for in the state-wide contract. As used in this paragraph, the term "state-wide contract" means the state-wide contract for airline travel incorporated in the state travel regulations established by the State Accounting Office. This limitation shall not apply, however, if the air travel is between pairs of cities not covered in the state-wide contract, if no state-wide contract is in effect, if the contracted flight is other than a nonstop flight, the contracted flight would cause the member undue hardship or would conflict with the member's schedule, or if passage under a state-wide contract is otherwise not reasonably available. When reimbursement is requested for an amount in excess of the amount provided in the state-wide contract, the member shall sign a statement indicating which of the foregoing exceptions applies.

(4) All allowances provided for in this subsection shall be paid upon the submission of proper vouchers.

(c) No member shall receive any expense allowance, mileage allowance, or travel allowance for service as a member of any committee, board, bureau, commission, or other agency, as provided for in this Code section, unless such member has personally performed the service and has personally incurred the expense for mileage or travel. Each member of the General Assembly submitting a voucher shall certify that such member personally performed the service and personally incurred the expense for mileage or travel covered by the voucher and that the information contained on the voucher is true and correct. The voucher shall contain such a certificate which the member must sign.

(d) It shall be unlawful for any member willfully to make a certificate, as provided for in subsection (c) of this Code section, knowing it to be false; and any member convicted of making such a false certificate shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or by imprisonment of not less than one nor more than five years, or both. No member of the General Assembly shall receive any compensation, salary, per diem, expenses, allowances, mileage, costs, or any other remuneration whatsoever for service as a member of the General Assembly other than as provided for in this Code section.

(e) The Senate Rules Committee shall designate an audit subcommittee to examine and review, not less than once every two months, legislative expenditures, including all vouchers submitted by members of the Senate, as provided for in this Code section, for which the members have received payment. The subcommittee is authorized to issue reports of its examination and review. The House Information and Audits Committee shall examine and review, not less than once every two months, legislative expenditures, including all vouchers submitted by members of the House of Representatives, as provided for in this Code section, for which the members have received payment. The committee is authorized to issue reports of its examination and review.

(f) If sickness prevents any member from attending the house of which he is a member during any session of the General Assembly, he shall be entitled to the same daily expense allowance as an attending member. No member shall receive a daily expense allowance for absent time except on account of sickness of himself or his family or by express leave of the house of which he is a member.

(g) Prior to January 10, 1983, if any member of the General Assembly dies during or after a regular or extraordinary session without having received all or any portion of his daily expense allowance for such session, the amount due for the whole session shall be paid to the surviving spouse of the deceased; and if there is no surviving spouse, in like manner to the children; and if there are no children, in like manner to the mother; and if there is no mother, in like manner to the father; and if there is no father, in like manner to the estate of the deceased member.

(h) From and after January 10, 1983, if any member of the General Assembly dies during or after a regular or extraordinary session without having received all or any portion of the member's daily expense allowance for such session, the amount due for the whole session shall be paid to the surviving spouse of the deceased; and if there is no surviving spouse, in like manner to the children; and if there are no children, in like manner to the estate of the deceased member. The member's salary for the full calendar month during which the member dies shall be paid in the same manner.

28-1-8.1. Failure of members to file state income tax returns.

(a) The state revenue commissioner shall be required to report to the chairperson of the Senate Ethics Committee the name of any Senator who has not filed a Georgia personal income tax return required by law to be filed by the Senator or is a defaulter for state income taxes in violation of Article II, Section II, Paragraph III of the Constitution. The state revenue commissioner shall be required to report to the chairperson of the House Committee on Ethics the name of any Representative who has not filed a Georgia personal income tax return required by law to be filed by the Representative or is a defaulter for state income taxes in violation of Article II, Section II, Paragraph III of the Constitution.

(b) The state revenue commissioner shall give written notice by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or statutory overnight delivery of any report under this Code section to the member of the General Assembly who is to be named at least 30 days prior to making such report.

(c) Upon receipt of a report under this Code section, the chairperson of the committee to whom the report is made shall undertake an appropriate investigation of the matter and report the findings of the investigation to the presiding officer of his or her chamber.

(d) Nothing in this Code section shall apply with respect to a tax return for which the taxpayer has timely applied for and received an unexpired extension of time to file.

(e) The provisions of this Code section shall control over the provisions of Code Section 48-7-60 or any other law relating to confidential treatment of state income tax return information.

28-1-16. Issuance of subpoenas by Superior Court of Fulton County on behalf of the Committees on Ethics of the Senate and House of Representatives.

(a) If the Committee on Ethics of the Senate or House of Representatives determines that the effective functioning of the committee requires the issuance of compulsory process to secure the

attendance of a witness or the production of documents and materials, or if a person whose conduct is called into question in an investigation or other proceeding requests the issuance of such compulsory process, the chairperson or acting chairperson shall make application in writing to the presiding judge of the Superior Court of Fulton County for the issuance of an appropriate subpoena. Such application shall:

- (1) Describe in general terms the investigation or other proceeding for which the issuance of subpoena is sought and identify the provisions of the Senate or House rules authorizing the committee to conduct such investigation or proceeding;
- (2) In the case of process to secure the attendance of a witness, identify the witness; the general nature of the questions to be propounded to the witness; and the reasons for believing that the testimony of the witness is likely to be relevant to the authorized scope of the investigation or proceeding;
- (3) In the case of process to secure the production of documents and materials, identify the person to whom the subpoena is to be directed; the general nature of the documents and materials in question; and the reasons for believing that such documents and materials are likely to be relevant to the authorized scope of the investigation or proceeding;
- (4) State whether confidential treatment of the application for and issuance of the subpoena is requested;
- (5) If the application is submitted on behalf of a person whose conduct is called into question, be accompanied by any materials in support of the application which such person desires to have transmitted to the court with the application; and
- (6) If the application is submitted on motion of the committee, be sought by the chairperson or acting chairperson only after notification to the person whose conduct is in issue that the subpoena will be sought.

(b) The presiding judge shall act on such application within 48 hours after it is presented to the judge. If the judge finds that the committee is acting within the scope of the authority granted to it by the rules of the Senate or House and that the testimony or documents or materials sought to be elicited appear to be likely to be relevant to the authorized scope of the investigation or proceeding, the judge may cause an appropriate subpoena to be issued and transmitted to the chairperson or acting chairperson. If the judge deems it necessary or appropriate, the judge may hold a closed or open hearing with respect to his or her determination of this matter.

(c) When authorized by the rules of the Senate and House, the confidential treatment of material and information in the course of investigations and other proceedings of the Committees on Ethics shall be recognized by law. Such confidential treatment shall be preserved in proceedings under this Code section as provided in this subsection. If the application for a subpoena requests confidential treatment, the court shall in any event take any and all steps necessary or appropriate to preserve the confidentiality of the application. The court may, but shall not be required to, issue the subpoena in such a manner as to preserve its confidentiality. If the court determines that a subpoena may be issued but confidential treatment is not warranted under the rules of the Senate or House, the judge shall so notify the chairperson or acting chairperson; and the chairperson or acting chairperson shall then have the option to:

- (1) Abandon the request for a subpoena, in which case the application shall remain confidential; or
 - (2) Accept the determination of the court, in which case the subpoena shall issue, but the application and the issuance shall not be treated as confidential.
- (d) In case of refusal to obey a subpoena issued under this Code section to any person, the Superior Court of Fulton County, upon application by the chairperson or acting chairperson, may issue to the person an order requiring him or her to appear before the court to show cause why he or she should not be held in contempt for refusal to obey the subpoena. Failure to obey a subpoena may be punished by the court as contempt of court.
- (e) A subpoena issued under this Code section may be served at any place in this state and in any manner authorized in Code Section 24-13-24. Fees and mileage shall be paid and tendered as provided in Code Section 24-13-25, notwithstanding the general exemption of the state from tender of fees and mileage, and shall be in the form of a check issued by the Legislative Fiscal Office upon the written request of the chairperson or acting chairperson.
- (f) Any decision of the court under this Code section shall be appealable in the same manner as provided by law for the appeal of a final judgment in a civil action.

28-5-62. Unlawful compensation.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any member of the Claims Advisory Board, any member of the General Assembly, or any state official or employee to receive any fee, money, gift, or any other thing of value, other than the regular compensation and allowances which he receives from state funds, in connection with any claim presented to the Claims Advisory Board.
- (b) Any person who violates any provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

TITLE 42
PENAL INSTITUTIONS
SELECTED PORTIONS OF TITLE

42-5-11. General prohibition against receipt of remuneration in regard to assignment, transfer, or status of inmate.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for anyone other than a duly licensed attorney who is an active member in good standing of the State Bar of Georgia and who is not a member of the General Assembly to accept a fee, money, or other remuneration, other than actual expenses, for contacting, in any manner, the commissioner, any employee of the department, or any member of the board in an attempt to influence the commissioner, employee, or board member concerning a transfer of an inmate from one correctional institution to another or concerning the status and assignment of an inmate within a correctional institution.
- (b) Any person who receives any fee, money, or other remuneration other than actual expenses, in violation of subsection (a) of this Code section, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

42-5-12. Receipt of remuneration by state officials in regard to assignment, transfer, or status of inmate.

(a) It shall be unlawful for members of the General Assembly or any other state elected or appointed official to accept a fee, money, or other remuneration for contacting, in any manner, the commissioner, any employee of the department, or any member of the board in an attempt to influence the commissioner, employee, or board member concerning a transfer of an inmate from one correctional institution to another or concerning the status and assignment of an inmate within a correctional institution.

(b) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed so as to prohibit:

(1) Members of the General Assembly or other state elected or appointed officials from appearing before or contacting the commissioner, employees of the department, or members of the board when their official duties require them to do so;

(2) Members of the General Assembly or other state elected or appointed officials from requesting information from and presenting information to the commissioner, employees of the department, or members of the board on behalf of constituents when no compensation, gift, favor, or anything of value is accepted, either directly or indirectly, for such services; or

(3) Members of the General Assembly or other state elected or appointed officials from contacting the commissioner, any employee of the department, or any member of the board on behalf of any person so long as there is no fee, money, or other remuneration being paid or received for such contacting.

(c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to apply to the acceptance of compensation, expenses, and allowances received by members of the General Assembly or any other state elected or appointed official for his duties as a member or official.

(d) Nothing contained in this Code section shall preclude any attorney from contacting a client who may be in a correctional institution or from making any reasonable contact with employees of the department to the extent that the contact with employees may be necessary to contact his client.

(e) Any person violating this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

42-9-17. Appearance before board by members of General Assembly or other elected or appointed officials on behalf of persons under the jurisdiction of the board.

(a) It shall be unlawful for members of the General Assembly or any other state elected or appointed official to accept any compensation for appearing before the board in behalf of a person under the jurisdiction of the board and for seeking a decision on behalf of the person. Nothing in this Code section shall be construed so as to prohibit:

(1) Members of the General Assembly or state elected or appointed officials from appearing before the board when their official duties require them to do so; or

(2) Members of the General Assembly or state elected or appointed officials from requesting information from and presenting information to the board on behalf of constituents when no compensation, gift, favor, or anything of value is accepted, either directly or indirectly, for such services.

- (b) Nothing in subsection (a) of this Code section shall be construed to apply to the acceptance of compensation, expenses, and allowances received by members of the General Assembly or any other state elected or appointed official for their duties as such members or officials.
- (c) Any person who violates subsection (a) of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

TITLE 45
PUBLIC OFFICERS
SELECTED PORTIONS OF TITLE

45-1-6. Gifts to employees by vendors; disclosure; reports.

(a) As used in this chapter, the term:

- (1) "Commission" means the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission created under Code Section 21-5-4.
- (2) "Gift" means a gratuity, subscription, membership, trip, meal, loan, extension of credit, forgiveness of debt, advance or deposit of money, or anything of value.
- (3) "Person" means an individual, partnership, committee, association, corporation, labor organization, or any other organization or group of persons.
- (4) "Public employee" means every person employed by the executive, legislative, or judicial branch of state government or any department, board, bureau, agency, commission, or authority thereof. This shall not include elected officials.
- (5) "Vendor" means any person who sells to or contracts with any branch of state government or any department, board, bureau, agency, or commission thereof for the provision of any goods or services.

(b) Any vendor who, either directly or through another person, makes a gift or gifts to one or more public employees exceeding in the aggregate \$250.00 in value during any calendar year shall file a disclosure report with the commission in the form specified by the commission listing the amount and date of receipt, the name and mailing address of any vendor making the gift, and the name, address, and position of each public employee receiving such a gift.

(c) Each disclosure report required by subsection (b) of this Code section shall be filed with the commission not later than February 1 of each year and shall cover the preceding calendar year.

(d) A report required by this Code section shall be verified by the oath or affirmation of the person filing such report or statement taken before an officer authorized to administer oaths. Each report required in a calendar year shall contain cumulative totals of all gifts which have been made or received and which are required to be reported.

(e) In addition to other penalties provided under this Code section, a filing fee of \$50.00 shall be imposed for each report that is filed late. In addition, a filing fee of \$25.00 shall be imposed on the fifteenth day after the due date if the report has still not been filed.

(f) The commission is vested with the same powers with respect to this Code section as enumerated in Code Section 21-5-6.

(g) Venue for prosecution of civil violations of this Code section or for any other action by or on behalf of the commission shall be in the county of residence of the accused person at the time of the alleged violation or action.

(h) Any person who knowingly fails to comply with or knowingly violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

45-7-4. Annual salaries of certain state officials; cost-of-living adjustments.

(a) The annual salary of each of the state officials listed below shall be as follows:

(1) Governor..... \$ 60,000.00

An allowance in an amount specified in the appropriations Act shall also be provided for the operation of the Governor's mansion.

(2) Lieutenant Governor..... 54,920.00

(3) Adjutant general

The adjutant general shall continue to receive the pay and allowances under the same procedure as provided by law.

(4) Commissioner of Agriculture..... 100,429.00

(5) Attorney General. 114,633.00

(6) Reserved.

(7) Commissioner of Insurance. 100,396.00

(8) Reserved.

(9) Commissioner of Labor. 100,418.00

The above amount of salary for the Commissioner of Labor shall include any compensation received from the United States government and the amount of state funds paid shall be reduced by the amount of compensation received from the United States government.

(10) Reserved.

(11) Each member of the Public Service Commission. 96,655.00

(12) Reserved.

(13) State School Superintendent..... 102,708.00

(14) Secretary of State. 102,708.00

(15) Reserved.

(16) Reserved.

(17) Reserved.

(18) Each Justice of the Supreme Court. 175,600.00

(19) Each Judge of the Court of Appeals.....	174,500.00
(20) Each superior court judge.....	126,265.00
(21) Each district attorney.	120,072.00
(22) Each member of the General Assembly.....	16,200.00

(A) Reserved.

(B) Each member of the General Assembly shall also receive the allowances provided by law. The amount of the daily expense allowance which each member is entitled to receive under the provisions of Code Section 28-1-8 shall be as provided in that Code section. The mileage allowance for the use of a personal car on official business shall be the same as that received by other state officials and employees.

(C) In addition to any other compensation and allowances authorized for members of the General Assembly, each member may be reimbursed for per diem differential and for actual expenses incurred in the performance of duties within the state as a member of the General Assembly in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.00 per year. Expenses reimbursable up to such amount shall be limited to one or more of the following purposes: lodging, meals, per diem differential, postage, personal services, printing and publications, rents, supplies (including software), telecommunications, transportation, utilities, and purchasing or leasing of equipment. If equipment purchased by a member has a depreciated value of \$100.00 or less when such member leaves office, the equipment does not need to be returned to the state. No reimbursement shall be made for any postage which is used for a political newsletter. No reimbursement shall be paid for lodging or meals for any day for which a member receives the daily expense allowance as provided in this paragraph. Such expenses shall be reimbursed upon the submission of sworn vouchers to the legislative fiscal office. Such sworn vouchers shall be accompanied by a supporting document or documents showing payment for each expense claimed or an explanation of the absence of such documentation. No sworn voucher or supporting document shall be required for per diem differential.

(D) The amount of per diem differential which may be claimed for each day under subparagraph (C) of this paragraph shall be the difference between the daily expense allowance authorized for members of the General Assembly and \$119.00; provided, however, that the General Appropriations Act for any fiscal year may increase such amount of \$119.00 per day to an amount not in excess of the federal per diem rate then in effect for the state capital as specified by the General Services Administration. Per diem differential shall be paid by the legislative fiscal office to the member upon the member's notification to the legislative fiscal office of the days for which the daily expense allowance was received for which the member wishes to claim the per diem differential, and the legislative fiscal

office shall keep a record of the days for which per diem differential is so claimed and paid.

(E) For the purposes of this paragraph, a year shall begin on the convening date of the General Assembly in regular session each year and end on the day prior to the convening of the General Assembly in the next calendar year. Any voucher or claim for any reimbursement for any year as defined in this paragraph shall be submitted no later than the fifteenth of April immediately following the end of such year. No reimbursement shall be made on any voucher or claim submitted after that date. Any amounts remaining in such expense account at the end of the first year of the two year biennium may be claimed for expenses incurred during the second year of the two year biennium. Any amounts remaining in any expense account which are not so claimed by April 15 of the year following the second year of the biennium and any amounts claimed which are returned as hereafter provided for in this paragraph shall lapse and shall be remitted by the legislative fiscal office to the general fund of the state treasury. Any former member of the General Assembly may be reimbursed for expenses incurred while a member of the General Assembly upon compliance with the provisions of this paragraph. The Legislative Services Committee is empowered to provide such procedures as it deems advisable to administer the provisions of this paragraph, including, but not limited to, definitions of the above list of items for which reimbursement may be made and the form of the voucher or claim which must be submitted to the legislative fiscal office. In the event of any disagreement as to whether any reimbursement shall be made or any allowance shall be paid, the Legislative Services Committee shall make the final determination. In the event any reimbursement is made or any allowance is paid and it is later determined that such reimbursement or payment was made in error, the person to whom such reimbursement or payment was made shall remit to the legislative fiscal office the amount of money involved. In the event any such person refuses to make such remittance, the legislative fiscal office is authorized to withhold the payment of any other moneys to which such person is entitled until the amount of such reimbursement or payment which was made in error shall be realized.

(23) Speaker of the House of Representatives..... 17,800.00

The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall also receive the salary and allowances authorized as a member of the General Assembly. Upon the taking of office by the members of the General Assembly on the convening day of the regular session of the General Assembly in 1983, the annual salary of the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall become \$22,800.00. After such date, the Speaker shall also receive as additional salary a sum equal to the amount of salary over \$30,000.00 per annum which is received by the Lieutenant Governor as of that date or thereafter; and the salary of the Speaker shall be adjusted at the beginning of each term so as to include such additional sum.

(24) President Pro Tempore of the Senate..... 4,800.00

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall also receive the salary and allowances authorized as a member of the General Assembly.

(25) Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives..... 4,800.00

The Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives shall also receive the salary and allowances authorized as a member of the General Assembly.

(b) As a cost-of-living adjustment except as qualified below as to members and member-officers of the General Assembly, the annual salary of each state official whose salary is established by Code Section 45-7-3, this Code section, and Code Sections 45-7-20 and 45-7-21, including members of the General Assembly, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker Pro Tempore of the House of Representatives, may be increased by the General Assembly in the General Appropriations Act by a percentage not to exceed the average percentage of the general increase in salary as may from time to time be granted to employees of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches of government. However, any increase for such officials shall not include within-grade step increases for which employees subject to compensation plans authorized and approved in accordance with Code Section 45-20-4 are eligible. Any increase granted pursuant to this subsection shall become effective at the same time that funds are made available for the increase for such employees, except increases for members and member-officers of the General Assembly. That portion of the increase determined by the Legislative Services Committee to reflect a cost-of-living increase based upon objective economic criteria shall become effective for members and member-officers at the same time that funds are made available for the increase for such employees. The balance of the increase for members and member-officers of the General Assembly shall become effective on the convening of the next General Assembly in January of the next odd-numbered year. The Office of Planning and Budget shall calculate the average percentage increase.

(c) The annual salary being received on June 30, 1980, shall be increased by 8 percent for each state official listed in subsection (a) of this Code section who:

- (1) Is not a member of the General Assembly; and
- (2) Is not a contributing member of a state retirement system and, therefore, does not benefit by or participate in any program whereunder a portion of the employee contributions to the state retirement system are made on behalf of the employee by the employer.

45-10-1. Code of ethics for government service generally - Establishment and text.

There is established for and within the state and for and in all governments therein a code of ethics for government service which shall read as follows:

CODE OF ETHICS FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Any person in government service should:

- I. Put loyalty to the highest moral principles and to country above loyalty to persons, party, or government department.
- II. Uphold the Constitution, laws, and legal regulations of the United States and the State of Georgia and of all governments therein and never be a party to their evasion.
- III. Give a full day's labor for a full day's pay and give to the performance of his duties his earnest effort and best thought.
- IV. Seek to find and employ more efficient and economical ways of getting tasks accomplished.
- V. Never discriminate unfairly by the dispensing of special favors or privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not, and never accept, for himself or his family, favors or benefits under circumstances which might be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of his governmental duties.
- VI. Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of office, since a government employee has no private word which can be binding on public duty.
- VII. Engage in no business with the government, either directly or indirectly, which is inconsistent with the conscientious performance of his governmental duties.
- VIII. Never use any information coming to him confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means for making private profit.
- IX. Expose corruption wherever discovered.
- X. Uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.

TITLE 45, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE 2, PART 1
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST; GENERAL PROVISIONS
PORTIONS APPLICABLE TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

45-10-20. Definitions.

As used in this part, the term:

- (1) "Agency" means any agency, authority, department, board, bureau, commission, committee, office, or instrumentality of the State of Georgia but shall not mean a political subdivision of the State of Georgia.
- (2) "Business" means any corporation, partnership, proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, trust, or other legal entity.
- (3) "Employee" means any person who, pursuant to a written or oral contract, is employed by an agency.
- (4) "Family" means spouse and dependents.
- (5) "Full-time" means 30 hours of work for the state per week for more than 26 weeks per calendar year.
- (6) "Limited powers" means those powers other than state-wide powers.
- (7) "Part-time" means any amount of work other than full-time work.
- (8) "Person" means any person, corporation, partnership, proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, or other legal entity.
- (9) "Public official" means any person elected to a state office and means any person appointed to a state office where in the conduct of such office the person so appointed has administrative and

discretionary authority to receive and expend public funds and to perform certain functions concerning the public which are assigned to him or her by law.

(10) "State-wide powers" means those powers exercised by public officials which affect and influence all of state government. Public officials who exercise such powers include but are not limited to the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly, Justices of the Supreme Court, Judges of the Court of Appeals, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the state auditor, the state accounting officer, the commissioner of administrative services, members of the State Personnel Board, the director of the Office of Planning and Budget, judges of the superior courts, and district attorneys.

(11) "Substantial interest" means the direct or indirect ownership of more than 25 percent of the assets or stock of any business.

(12) "Transact business" or "transact any business" means to sell or lease any personal property, real property, or services on behalf of oneself or on behalf of any third party as an agent, broker, dealer, or representative and means to purchase surplus real or personal property on behalf of oneself or on behalf of any third party as an agent, broker, dealer, or representative.

45-10-21. Legislative purposes and intent.

(a) It is essential to the proper operation of democratic government that public officials be independent and impartial, that governmental decisions and policy be made in the proper channels of the governmental structure, that public office not be used for private gain other than the remuneration provided by law, and that there be public confidence in the integrity of government. The attainment of one or more of these ends is impaired whenever there exists a conflict between the private interests of an elected official or a government employee and his duties as such. The public interest, therefore, requires that the law protect against such conflicts of interest and establish appropriate ethical standards with respect to the conduct of elected officials and government employees in situations where conflicts exist.

(b) It is also essential to the proper operation of government that those best qualified be encouraged to serve the government. Accordingly, legal safeguards against conflicts of interest must be so designed as not unnecessarily or unreasonably to impede the recruitment and retention by the government of those men and women who are best qualified to serve it. An essential principle underlying the staffing of our government structure is that its elected officials and employees should not be denied the opportunity, available to all other citizens, to acquire and retain private economic and other interests, except where conflicts with the responsibility of such elected officials and employees to the public cannot be avoided.

(c) The General Assembly declares that the operation of responsible democratic government requires that the fullest opportunity be afforded to the people to petition their government for the redress of grievances and to express freely to individual members of the General Assembly, to committees of the General Assembly, and to officials of the executive branch their opinions on legislation, on pending executive actions, and on current issues and that, to preserve and maintain the integrity of the legislative and administrative processes, it is necessary that the identity, expenditures, and activities of certain persons who engage in efforts to persuade members of the General Assembly or the executive branch to take specific actions, either by direct communication

to such officials, or by solicitation of others to engage in such efforts, be publicly and regularly disclosed. The provisions of this article shall be liberally construed to promote complete disclosure of such information so as to assure that the public interest will be fully protected.

(d) It is the policy and purpose of this article to implement these objectives of protecting the integrity of all governmental units of this state and of facilitating the recruitment and retention of qualified personnel by prescribing essential restrictions against conflicts of interest in state government without creating unnecessary barriers to the public service.

45-10-24. Part-time public officials with state-wide powers prohibitions; part-time employees prohibitions; exceptions to prohibitions.

(a)(1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful for any part-time public official who has state-wide powers, for himself or on behalf of any business, or for any business in which such public official or member of his family has a substantial interest to transact any business with any agency.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, it shall be unlawful for any part-time employee, for himself or on behalf of any business, or for any business in which such employee or member of his family has a substantial interest to transact any business with the agency by which such employee is employed.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this Code section shall not apply to:

(1) Any transaction made pursuant to sealed competitive bids;

(2) Any transaction when the amount of a single transaction does not exceed \$250.00 and when the aggregate of all such transactions does not exceed \$9,000.00 per calendar year;

(3) Any transaction involving the lease of real property to or from any agency if such transaction has been approved by the State Properties Commission or the Space Management Division of the Department of Administrative Services; and

(4) Any transaction involving the purchase of surplus state property at a public auction.

(c) Any person who knowingly violates subsection (a) of this Code section shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Code Section 45-10-28.

45-10-25. Exceptions to prohibitions on transactions with state agencies.

(a) The provisions of Code Sections 45-10-22, 45-10-23, and 45-10-24 shall not apply to:

(1) Any transaction involving the sale of real property to the state or any agency through eminent domain;

(2) Any transaction involving the purchase by the public official or employee of any health or life insurance, disability benefits, or retirement or pension benefits offered as a part of a public official's or employee's service or employment;

(3) Any transaction between a public official or employee or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his family has a substantial interest and any person, the cost of which transaction is paid directly or indirectly by state funds, if the property or services involved in the transaction are for the private use and benefit of the person to whom such property or services are sold or rendered and such person does not subsequently sell or lease such property or services to an agency;

- (4) Any transaction between a public official or employee or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his family has a substantial interest and the state or any agency thereof under which it is agreed that the public official or employee or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his family has a substantial interest is to provide Medicaid and related services and benefits or medicare and related services and benefits, or both, and under which it is agreed that the state or any agency thereof is to reimburse or pay for the services and benefits so provided;
- (5) Any transaction between a public official or employee or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his family has a substantial interest and the state or any agency thereof under which the public official or employee or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his family has a substantial interest directly or indirectly receives reimbursement or payment from the state or any agency thereof for providing Medicaid and related services and benefits or medicare and related services and benefits, or both, and under which the state or any agency thereof reimburses or pays the public official or employee or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his family has a substantial interest for providing Medicaid and related services and benefits or medicare and related services and benefits, or both;
- (6) Any transaction between a public official or employee or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his family has a substantial interest and any state contractor if there was no agreement prior to the transaction that the public official or employee would assist, other than by providing goods or services as required under the terms of the agreement underlying the transaction, the contractor in obtaining, retaining, or fulfilling the state contract and if the public official or employee does not assist, other than by providing goods or services as required under the terms of the agreement underlying the transaction, the contractor in obtaining, retaining, or fulfilling the state contract;
- (7) Any transaction involving part-time employment by the Georgia Building Authority or the Department of Natural Resources of custodial and cleaning workers or cooks who work for other agencies;
- (8) Any transaction involving part-time employment by any agency of a chaplain; firefighter; any person holding a doctoral or master's degree from an accredited college or university; a licensed physician, dentist, or psychologist; a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse; or a certified oral or manual interpreter for deaf persons, if employed by the state, if:
- (A) The chief executive officer of the department, agency, commission, or authority which desires to obtain the services of a chaplain; firefighter; any person holding a doctoral or master's degree from an accredited college or university; a licensed physician, dentist, or psychologist; a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse; or a certified oral or manual interpreter for deaf persons presently employed by another department, agency, commission, or authority of the state shall certify in writing the need for the services and set forth why the best interest of the state will be served by obtaining the part-time services of such a person in lieu of obtaining such services from a person not presently employed by the state;
- (B) The chief executive officer of the department, agency, commission, or authority presently employing the chaplain; firefighter; any person holding a doctoral or master's degree from an

accredited college or university; the licensed physician, dentist, or psychologist; the registered nurse or licensed practical nurse; or the certified oral or manual interpreter for deaf persons shall certify in writing that the person whose services are desired is available to perform such services, that the performance of such services will not detract or have a detrimental effect on the performance of said person's employment and, where appropriate, that the part-time employment of such person by the department, agency, commission, or authority desirous of obtaining the services will be in the best interest of the state; and

(C) The departments, agencies, commissions, or authorities, after having complied with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph shall, by agreement, establish the procedures under which the employee shall perform the additional services. The agreement shall specify the means of employment either as a part-time employee or as a consultant, the compensation, and other pertinent details and conditions of the employment relationship. The agreement shall be terminable at any time by either of the departments, agencies, commissions, or authorities;

(9) Any transaction involving the Public Service Commission's employment of any state employee who has any particular expertise or knowledge which may be of assistance to the Georgia Public Service Commission in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities under Title 46. The terms and conditions of such employment shall be solely determined by the Georgia Public Service Commission; but, in any event, the employee may not provide services to the Georgia Public Service Commission during such times as he or she is regularly scheduled to be at his or her primary place of employment unless the employee has received permission to do so from his or her regular employer or unless the employee is on annual leave or leave without pay;

(10) Any transaction involving an emergency purchase by any agency which must be made to protect the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens or property of Georgia;

(11) Any transaction involving property or a service for which the only source of supply in the State of Georgia is from the public official or employee or a business in which such public official or employee or member of his family has a substantial interest;

(12) Any transaction occurring prior to March 1, 1983;

(13) Any transaction occurring prior to qualifying to run for elective office, accepting appointment to public office, or accepting public employment and any transaction occurring after qualifying to run for elective office, accepting appointment to public office, or accepting public employment if the legal obligation and duty to undertake such transaction arose prior to qualifying to run for elective office, accepting appointment to public office, or accepting public employment;

(14) Any transaction whereby a public official or employee or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his family has a substantial interest collects a fee or commission as compensation for performing a service for the state when such performance is required or authorized by law, including but not limited to the collection of state sales tax, the collection of license fees, and the collection of excise taxes;

(15) Any transaction whereby an appointed public official or employee, under the procedures specified in this paragraph, sells to a unit of the University System of Georgia services as a teacher or instructor of an evening or night course or program, if:

(A) The chief executive officer of the unit of the University System of Georgia shall certify in writing the need for the services and set forth why the best interest of the state will be served by

obtaining the services of such state official or employee in lieu of obtaining such services from a person not presently employed by the state;

(B) The chief executive officer of the department, agency, commission, or authority presently employing the state official or employee shall certify in writing that the person whose services are desired is available to perform such services, that the performance of such services will not detract or have a detrimental effect on the performance of said person's full-time employment, and, where appropriate, that the employment of such person by the unit of the University System of Georgia will be in the best interest of the state; and

(C) The departments, agencies, commissions, authorities, and units, after having complied with subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this paragraph, shall, by agreement, establish the procedures under which the official or employee shall perform the additional services. The agreement shall specify the means of employment, the compensation, and other pertinent details and conditions of the employment relationship. The agreement shall be terminable at any time by any of the departments, agencies, commissions, authorities, or units; or

(16) Any transaction involving the lease for the purpose of small business and economic development of laboratory and research facilities owned by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia during times when the laboratory and research facilities are not in use.

(b) Authority is given for a public official or employee or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his family has a substantial interest and the state or any agency thereof to engage in any transaction exempted from the coverage of this part by subsection (a) of this Code section and subsection (b) of Code Section 45-10-24 and any transaction necessary and proper to such transaction.

45-10-26. Annual disclosure statements concerning business transactions with state; public records.

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, any public official or employee, whether for himself, herself, or on behalf of any business, or any business in which such public official or employee or any member of his or her family has a substantial interest who transacts business with the state or any agency thereof shall disclose such transactions. Such disclosure shall be submitted prior to January 31 each year to the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission on such forms as it shall prescribe and shall include an itemized list of the previous year's transactions with the dollar amount of each transaction reported and totaled. Such disclosure statements shall be public records.

(b) The requirement to disclose certain transactions as provided in subsection (a) of this Code section shall not apply to any transaction when the amount of a single transaction does not exceed \$250.00 and when the aggregate of all transactions does not exceed \$9,000.00 per calendar year.

(c) Any person who fails to file a disclosure statement as required in subsection (a) of this Code section shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Code Section 45-10-28.

45-10-28. Penalties for violation of part; civil actions by Attorney General to collect penalties; violations by public official, agency head, or employee.

- (a)(1) Any appointed public official or employee who violates Code Section 45-10-22, 45-10-23, 45-10-24, 45-10-26, or 45-10-29 shall be subject to:
- (A) Removal from office or employment;
 - (B) A civil fine not to exceed \$10,000.00; and
 - (C) Restitution to the state of any pecuniary benefit received as a result of such violation.
- (2) Any elected public official who violates Code Section 45-10-22, 45-10-23, 45-10-24, 45-10-26, or 45-10-29 shall be subject to:
- (A) A civil fine not to exceed \$10,000.00; and
 - (B) Restitution to the state of any pecuniary benefit received as a result of such violation.
- (3) Any business which violates Code Section 45-10-22, 45-10-23, 45-10-24, 45-10-26, or 45-10-29 shall be subject to:
- (A) A civil fine not to exceed \$10,000.00; and
 - (B) Restitution to the state of any pecuniary benefit received as a result of such violation.
- (b) The penalties provided for in subsection (a) of this Code section may be imposed in any civil action brought for that purpose, and such actions shall be brought by the Attorney General.
- (c) As used in this subsection, the term "agency head" shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 50-36-1. Any public official, agency head, or employee who violates Code Section 13-10-91 or 50-36-1 shall be subject to:
- (1) A civil fine not to exceed \$10,000.00;
 - (2) Restitution to the state or local government, whichever is applicable, of any pecuniary benefit received as a result of such violation; and
 - (3) Where such violation is committed knowingly and intentionally, removal from office or employment.

45-10-29. Public officials prohibited from granting themselves licenses by waiving certain requirements; requirements to be satisfied prior to renewal of licenses; penalties for violations.

- (a) Notwithstanding any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, a public official shall not be authorized to waive any legal, educational, or testing requirement for himself or herself relative to the issuance of any license to himself, herself, or to his or her business.
- (b) Any license that has been issued by a public official by waiving any legal, educational, or testing requirement for himself or herself relative to the issuance of any license to himself, herself, or to his or her business shall not be renewed until and unless the license holder has satisfied all of the requirements for securing a renewal license as well as any requirement that had been waived for the issuance of the original license.
- (c) Any person who knowingly violates subsection (a) or (b) of this Code section shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Code Section 45-10-28.

**TITLE 45, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE 2, PART 5
FAMILY MEMBERS OF PUBLIC EMPLOYEES**

45-10-80. Public officers prohibited from advancing, employing, or advocating the employment of family members.

- (a) A public officer, as defined in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of paragraph (22) of Code Section 21-5-3, is prohibited from advocating for or causing the advancement, appointment, employment, promotion, or transfer of a member of his or her family, as such term is defined in Code Section 21-5-3, to an office or position to become a public employee, as defined in paragraph (3) of subsection (a) of Code Section 45-1-4, that pays an annual salary of \$10,000.00 or more or its equivalent.
- (b) Any person advanced, appointed, employed, promoted, or transferred in violation of this Code section shall not be entitled to any payment, salary, or benefits received for any position so illegally obtained; and any person who receives payment, salary, or benefits for a position obtained in violation of this Code section shall be required to reimburse the state for all amounts so received.

**TITLE 45, CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE 2, PART 6
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS**

45-10-90. Definitions.

As used in this part, the term:

- (1) "Abuse of official power" means threatening to use the powers or personnel of a state entity for personal purposes of coercion, retaliation, or punishment.
- (2) "Clerical officer" means the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate.
- (3) "Committee" means the House Committee on Ethics or the Senate Ethics Committee.
- (4) "Conflict of interest" means an individual has multiple interests and uses his or her official position to exploit, in some way, his or her position for his or her own direct, unique, pecuniary, and personal benefit.
- (5) "Employee" means any person who is employed by the legislative branch of state government.
- (6) "Improper conduct" means a member of the General Assembly:
 - (A) Engages in conduct that is a conflict of interest;
 - (B) Engages in conduct that is an abuse of official power; or
 - (C) Illegally uses an employee in a political campaign.
- (7) "Member of the General Assembly" means any person elected and certified as a member of the General Assembly.
- (8) "Sexual harassment" means making sexual advances, requesting sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:
 - (A) Submission to such conduct is made explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment;
 - (B) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting the employee; or

(C) Such conduct interferes with the employee's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment.

45-10-91. Method of addressing improper conduct.

(a) Any person may file a complaint with the clerical officer of the appropriate chamber alleging improper conduct involving a member of the General Assembly. Any employee may file a complaint with the clerical officer of the appropriate chamber alleging sexual harassment by a member of the General Assembly. The clerical officer shall designate the place where such complaints may be filed, provide instruction necessary to properly submit a complaint, and prescribe forms for such complainants. Complaints shall be submitted in writing and verified under oath to the best information, knowledge, and belief of such person. The complaint shall include a statement by the complainant as to whether or not in filing the complaint he or she is acting as an agent, paid or otherwise, for any other person. Any person who knowingly provides false information in executing a complaint under this Code section commits the offense of false swearing within the meaning of Code Section 16-10-71.

(b) The clerical officer shall forward, within one business day of receipt, the original complaint and all materials appended to such complaint in a confidential report to the presiding officer of the appropriate chamber and to the chairperson of the House Committee on Ethics or the chairperson of the Senate Ethics Committee, as appropriate.

45-10-92. Abuse of power and improper use of state employees by General Assembly members.

(a) The committee shall serve the person against whom any complaint is made a copy of the complaint by hand delivery or statutory overnight delivery or mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, within five business days of the committee's receipt of such complaint.

(b) The committee shall conduct a preliminary investigation of the merits of such complaint. If a complaint alleges a violation by one of the members of the committee, such member shall recuse himself or herself. If there are found no reasonable grounds to believe that improper conduct or sexual harassment has occurred, the complaint shall be dismissed, subject to being reopened upon discovery of additional evidence or relevant material. The committee shall not be required to conduct a hearing if there are no reasonable grounds to believe that improper conduct or sexual harassment has occurred. If the committee determines that there are such reasonable grounds to believe that improper conduct or sexual harassment has occurred, it shall give notice by summoning the persons believed to have committed the violation to a hearing. The rules of the committee shall be invoked if a hearing occurs. The committee may report suspected violations of law to the appropriate law enforcement authority.

(c) Nothing in this Code section shall be construed to limit or encumber the right of the committee to initiate on probable cause an investigation on its own cognizance as it deems necessary to fulfill its obligations to investigate improper conduct or sexual harassment.

(d) The committee shall adopt a retention standard for complaints and documents attached thereto.

TITLE 45, CHAPTER 11
MISCELLANEOUS OFFENSES CONCERNING PUBLIC OFFICERS
AND EMPLOYEES
SELECTED PORTIONS OF CHAPTER

45-11-1. Offenses involving public records, documents, and other items.

(a) If any public officer or other person shall steal, embezzle, alter, corrupt, withdraw, falsify, or avoid any record, process, charter, gift, grant, conveyance, or contract; or shall knowingly and willfully take off, discharge, or conceal any issue, forfeited recognizance, or other forfeiture; or shall forge, deface, or falsify any document or instrument recorded or any registry, acknowledgment, or certificate; or shall alter, deface, or falsify any minutes, document, book, or any proceeding whatever of or belonging to any public office within this state; or if any person shall cause or procure any of these offenses to be committed, or to be in any manner concerned therein, he shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment and labor in the penitentiary for not less than two years nor more than ten years.

(b) Whosoever, without authority and with the intention of converting to his own or another's use, willfully conceals any record, book, or document while on the premises of any public office or willfully removes any book, document, record, or other property from any such office shall be guilty of stealing such property. Proof of the concealment of such record or other office property while still on the premises shall be prima-facie evidence of intent to steal.

(c) A public officer or employee may detain and question any person whose conduct causes reasonable ground for suspicion that such person is engaging in stealing or criminal damage to the records in a public office.

(d) A public officer or employee causing the arrest or detention of any person pursuant to this Code section shall not be held civilly liable for slander, malicious prosecution, false imprisonment, malicious arrest, assault and battery of the person, physical injuries and mental suffering, or any other suit for damages arising from such arrest, whether such arrest takes place on the public property or after close pursuit from such premises by such officer; provided, however, that, in causing the arrest of such person, the officer or employee had probable cause at the time of such arrest to believe that the person was committing unlawful acts relating to public documents and the arrest and detention were under reasonable circumstances.

(e) Upon presentation of affirmative proof, the Secretary of State or his or her designee or, with respect to the Georgia Archives, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia may initiate action through the Attorney General or other appropriate jurisdiction to prevent the sale, transfer, conveyance, destruction, or alienation of any records, books, documents, or other office property which has been unlawfully removed from any public office or public officer or employee. Upon request of the Secretary of State or his or her designee or the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, the Attorney General or other appropriate jurisdiction shall have the authority to enjoin, recover, and replevin such records, books, documents, or other office property.

(f) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) "Records, books, documents, or other office property" means, but is not limited to, all books, plates, pictures, photographs, films, engravings, paintings, drawings, maps, newspapers,

magazines, pamphlets, broadsides, personal papers, organization records, documents, letters, public records, microforms, sound recordings, audiovisual materials in any format, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data processing records, artifacts, or other documentary, written, or printed material, regardless of physical form or characteristics, belonging to, on loan to, or otherwise in the custody of any public office;

(2) "Public office" means any office held, used, or controlled for public purposes by any department, agency, board, or branch of state, county, or municipal government without reference to the ownership of the building or of the realty on which it is situated. Such term includes any archives, library, or records storage area maintained by such governments;

(3) "Avoid" means to annul, cancel, make void, destroy the efficacy of, or destroy without authority any record, book, document, or other office property;

(4) "Public officer or employee" means any officer or employee having custody of or responsibility for any records, books, documents, or other office property referred to in this Code section.

45-11-2. Selling office or dividing fees.

If any person who has been elected to any office shall sell or farm out said office; or if any person shall purchase or agree to give any money or other thing of value to a person elected for the privilege of exercising the duties of said office; or if any person shall promise or agree to divide the profits, fees, or emoluments of said office with the person so elected, he shall be guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by confinement and labor in the penitentiary for not less than one year nor more than three years.

45-11-4. Unprofessional conduct; misdemeanor; applicability.

(a) As used in this Code section, the term:

(1) 'County officer' means any elected county officer, including the judge of the probate court, clerk of the superior court, tax receiver, tax collector, and tax commissioner where such office has replaced the tax receiver and tax collector, and any county commissioner.

(2) 'Municipal officer' means any mayor or elected member of any municipal governing authority.

(3) 'Public officer' means a county officer, a municipal officer, and state officials as provided in Code Section 45-15-11.

(b) A public officer may be charged under this Code section for:

(1) Malpractice, misfeasance, or malfeasance in office;

(2) Using oppression or tyrannical partiality in the administration or under the color of his or her office;

(3) When required by law, willfully refusing or failing to preside in or hold his or her court at the regular terms thereof, or when it is his or her duty under the law to do so;

(4) Using any other deliberate means to delay or avoid the due course or proceeding of law; or

(5) Willfully and knowingly demanding more cost than he or she is entitled to by law in the administration and under color of his or her office.

(c) A conviction for violating subsection (b) of this Code section shall be punished as for a misdemeanor and, upon conviction in a court of competent jurisdiction, the accused shall be removed from office.

(d) This Code section shall only apply to a public officer charged under subsection (b) of this Code section. This Code section shall not apply when a public officer is charged with any other crime alleged to have occurred while such official was in the performance of an official duty.

(e) This Code section shall only apply to a public officer holding office at the time of indictment and not to former office holders.

45-11-8. Engaging in bail bond business.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any elected official, officer of the court, law enforcement officer, or attorney in this state to engage either directly or indirectly in the bail bond business. For purposes of this Code section, "elected official" shall not include a person who is elected to the local school board.

(b) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

45-11-10. Coercion of other officer or employee to give anything of value for political purposes.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any officer or employee of this state to coerce or attempt to coerce or command directly or indirectly any other state officer or employee to pay, lend, or contribute any part of his salary or to kick back any sum of money or anything else of value to any party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes.

(b) It shall be unlawful for any officer or employee of any county, municipal corporation, school district, or other political subdivision to coerce or attempt to coerce or command directly or indirectly any other officer or employee of such political subdivision to pay, lend, or contribute any part of his salary or to kick back any sum of money or anything else of value to any party, committee, organization, agency, or person for political purposes.

(c) Any person who violates any provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

TITLE 50
STATE GOVERNMENT
SELECTED PORTION OF TITLE

50-16-5. Defacing or injuring capitol building or grounds.

If any person shall mar, deface, or in any way injure the capitol building, the approaches thereto, the trees, shrubbery, or grounds belonging to same, or any of the furniture, fixtures, or property therein, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.