
DIGEST

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HB 160 Original

2025 Regular Session

Dickerson

Abstract: Provides relative to ethics complaints, investigative powers of the Board of Ethics, and penalties for making a false ethics complaint.

Present law (R.S. 42:1141(B)) provides that the Board of Ethics (Board) shall consider any sworn complaint concerning a violation of present law (Code of Governmental Ethics). Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that after a two-thirds majority vote of its membership, the Board may consider any matter which it believes to be a violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics. Proposed law specifies that the matter must be in a non-sworn complaint for the board to vote to consider it.

Present law provides that the Board may consider any matter that it reasonably believes is in violation of any other provision of law within its jurisdiction as provided in present law or as otherwise provided by law.

Proposed law provides instead that the Board may consider any matter as may be otherwise provided by law.

Present law additionally requires the Board to send by certified mail a copy of the complaint, the vote, and the factual allegations upon which the Board based its decision to investigate to both the accused and the complainant. Provides that the name of the complainant be redacted.

Proposed law provides instead that the name of the complainant not be redacted when the copy of the complaint is sent to the accused. Otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides that the Board may use panels to conduct investigations and hearings concerning alleged violations of laws within its jurisdiction. Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that the Board provide only a notification stating the final disposition of the complaint to the complainant that has filed a non-sworn complaint. Proposed law retains present law.

Proposed law provides that a complaint shall be made in writing and contain the full name of the complainant. Requires the complainant to file the complaint in person with the Board at the offices of the ethics administration. Requires the complainant to provide a valid driver's license, passport, or other government-issued identification.

Present law (R.S. 42:1153) provides penalties for violations of any provision of law that is within the jurisdiction of the Board.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that attorney fees shall be assessed against a complainant who knowingly and willfully files a false ethics complaint.

(Amends R.S. 42:1141(B)(1); Adds R.S. 42:1153(C))