

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1995

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SENATE BILL 575

Short Title: Legislative Ethics Comm. Cochairs.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Perdue.

Referred to: Rules and Operation of the Senate

April 4, 1995

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE, TO DESIGNATE COMMITTEE COCHAIRS FROM EACH LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER, AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

"§ 120-99. Creation; composition.

The Legislative Ethics Committee is created to consist of ~~a chairman and eight ten~~ members, ~~four five~~ Senators appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, among them – two from a list of four submitted by the Majority Leader and two from a list of four submitted by the Minority Leader, and ~~four five~~ members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, among them – two from a list of four submitted by the Majority Leader and two from a list of four submitted by the Minority Leader.

~~The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate a member of the General Assembly as chairman of the Committee in odd-numbered years, and the Speaker of the House shall designate a member of the General Assembly as chairman of the Committee in even-numbered years. The chairman will vote only in the event of a tie vote.~~

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House shall each designate a cochair of the Legislative Ethics Committee from the respective officer's

1 appointees. The cochair appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall
2 preside over the Legislative Ethics Committee during the odd-numbered year, and the
3 cochair appointed by the Speaker of the House shall preside in the even-numbered year.

4 The provisions of G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.8 shall apply to the proceedings
5 of the Legislative Ethics Committee as if it were a joint committee of the General
6 Assembly, except that ~~the chairman~~ both cochairs shall sign all subpoenas on behalf of the
7 Committee."

8 Sec. 2. G.S. 120-100 reads as rewritten:

9 **"§ 120-100. Term of office; vacancies.**

10 ~~Initial members of the Legislative Ethics Committee shall be appointed as soon as~~
11 ~~practicable after the ratification of this Article and shall serve until the expiration of their~~
12 ~~current terms as members of the General Assembly. Thereafter, appointments~~
13 Appointments to the Legislative Ethics Committee shall be made immediately after the
14 convening of the regular session of the General Assembly in odd-numbered years, and
15 appointees shall serve until the expiration of their then-current terms as members of the
16 General Assembly. The chairman shall serve for one year and shall be appointed each
17 year.—A vacancy occurring for any reason during a term shall be filled for the unexpired
18 term by the authority making the appointment which caused the vacancy, and the person
19 appointed to fill the vacancy shall, if possible, be a member of the same political party as
20 the member who caused the vacancy."

21 Sec. 3. G.S. 120-101 reads as rewritten:

22 **"§ 120-101. Quorum; expenses of members.**

23 ~~Five~~ Six members constitute a quorum of the Committee. A vacancy on the
24 Committee does not impair the right of the remaining members to exercise all the powers
25 of the Committee.

26 The ~~chairman and~~ members of the Committee, while serving on the business of the
27 Committee, are performing legislative duties and are entitled to the subsistence and travel
28 allowances to which members of the General Assembly are entitled when performing
29 legislative duties."

30 Sec. 4. The terms of office of the current members of the Legislative Ethics
31 Committee shall not be affected by this act; except that the Senator appointed under the
32 prior law as chairman is designated the cochair from the Senate and shall serve until the
33 expiration of that Senator's current term of office as a member of the General Assembly,
34 and the Speaker of the House shall make the additional appointment provided in this act
35 as soon as practicable after its ratification.

36 Sec. 5. This act is effective upon ratification.