

House Democrats' GAE Committee Ethics Package 2008 Legislative Session

Revise the State Code of Ethics for Public Officials and Address Other Conflicts

- Revise our State Code of Ethics to address conflicts
 - Ban legislators from working for quasi-public agencies and serving on their boards
 - Tighten current gift restrictions
- Prohibit legislators from introducing legislation on behalf of their employers and from voting on matters that directly benefit their employers
- Prohibit all unclassified state employees from participating in political activity while on state time

Create an Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee of the Government Administration and Elections Committee to Handle disciplinary Matters Related to the Misconduct of Legislators

- Create House and Senate bi-partisan, ad-hoc subcommittees of the GAE committee in the rules of each chamber
 - Give each panel the authority to recommend disciplinary action against legislators, including reprimand, censure, or expulsion who are convicted of or plead guilty or no contest to a crime or are found by the Office of State Ethics to have violated the State Ethics Code
- Require the governor to create a panel to review commissioners' and deputy commissioners' conduct and recommend disciplinary action

Revocation of Pensions

- Give judges the power to revoke or reduce the pensions of state and municipal elected or appointed officials, and employees, and quasi public agency directors, members and employees who are convicted of a crime that violates the public's trust
- Allow for pension revocations of officials who are removed from office by impeachment or expulsion
- Allow pension revocations to be applied back ten years

Establish Standards for Municipal Ethics

- By 2010, expand the State Code of Ethics to cover municipal officials and employees and municipal quasi-public agency officials and employees

Lobbying Reforms

- Establish municipal lobbying requirements and rules
- Prohibit lobbyists from serving on municipal, state and quasi-public boards and commissions

Contracts

- Prohibit businesses that award state or quasi-public agency contracts valued at \$50,000 or more from employing former public officials, state employees, or quasi-public agency members or directors who substantially participated in contract negotiations or awards within one year after they leave service

Training

- Require the Office of State Ethics to conduct mandatory biennial ethics training for all state legislators

Failure to Report a Bribe

- Make it a crime for public officials that fail to report a bribe