MINUTES
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE
MAY 19, 2026, MEETING
{Approved: June 24, 2026}

The Legislative Ethics Committee (RSA 14-B:2) met on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 10:30 A.M. in Room 100 of the State House.

The following members were present: the Honorable Edward M. Gordon, Chairman, the Honorable Donna Sytek, Vice Chairman, Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Senator Ruth Ward, Representative Bob Lynn, Representative Catherine Rombeau, and the Honorable David W. Hess. Also participating was Richard M. Lambert, Executive Administrator.

The Committee's meeting consisted of the following agenda items:

ITEM #1

Consideration of the draft *Minutes* from the Committee's meeting held on May 4, 2026. Following review, Vice Chairman Sytek moved to adopt the *Minutes* as presented. Senator Rosenwald seconded the motion, and the Committee voted 7 to 0 to adopt the *Minutes*.

ITEM #2

Continuation of the Preliminary Investigation of *Complaint 2026-3*. (Nonpublic Session)

Vice Chairman Sytek moved to enter nonpublic session, pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d), to continue the Preliminary Investigation of *Complaint 2026-3*. Mr. Hess seconded the motion, and the Committee voted as follows:

Mr. Hess	Yea
Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

Vice Chairman Sytek moved to exit nonpublic session. Representative Lynn seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Mr. Hess	Yea
Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated the Committee, in its nonpublic session, completed its preliminary investigation of *Complaint 2026-3* and voted to draft a statement of formal charges and to initiate a formal proceeding on the complaint.

ITEM #3

Initial Review of *Complaint 2026-5, Kurland, Jr. v. Markell* (Public Session)

Chairman Gordon stated that the respondent, Representative Jay Markell, had waived his right to confidentiality with respect to the complaint and that, accordingly, the Committee's initial review would be conducted in public session. He further stated that the complaint from Mr. Frank K. Kurland, Jr., alleged that Representative Markell had a conflict of interest with regard to 2026 House Bill 1263 and that he violated RSA 14-C:4-a by not recusing from participation relating to the bill.

The Committee reviewed the sworn complaint and its accompanying material, a written response from Representative Markell, a reply from the complainant, Mr. Kurland, and a submission from Larry D. White, J.D.

The Committee then deliberated on the complaint and determined that Representative Markell did not have a conflict of interest with regard to HB 1263, could not reasonably be expected to incur a direct and substantial financial benefit or detriment from the bill, and was not required to recuse.

Vice Chairman moved to dismiss the complaint as it was without merit.

Representative Lynn seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Mr. Hess	Yea
Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

ITEM #4

Deliberation on *Complaint 2026-4* and *Complaint 2026-6*. (Nonpublic Session)

Vice Chairman Sytek moved to enter nonpublic session, pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d), to deliberate on *Complaint 2026-4* and *Complaint 2026-6*. Representative Lynn seconded the motion, and the Committee voted as follows:

Mr. Hess	Yea
Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

Vice Chairman Sytek moved to exit nonpublic session. Representative Lynn seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Mr. Hess	Yea
Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated, "The Committee just participated in deliberations on *Complaint 2026-4* and *Complaint 2026-6*. With regard to *Complaint 2026-4*, the Committee voted to continue the preliminary investigation. With regard to Complaint 2026-6, the Committee voted to dismiss the complaint."

ITEM #5

Examination of *Complaint 2026-7*. (Nonpublic Session)

Vice Chairman Sytek moved to enter nonpublic session, pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d), to examine *Complaint 2026-7.* Mr. Hess seconded the motion, and the Committee voted as follows:

Mr. Hess	Yea
Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

Vice Chairman Sytek moved to exit nonpublic session. Representative Lynn seconded the motion and the Committee voted as follows:

Mr. Hess	Yea
Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated, "The Committee just came out of nonpublic session. During nonpublic session, the Committee examined *Complaint 2026-7*. Having completed that examination, the Committee voted to discharge *Complaint 2026-7* as it failed to have merit."

ITEM #6

Consideration of a request for a "determination" from Representative Mark MacKenzie.

The Committee discussed how it had considered and responded to two similar requests from Representative MacKenzie (see Item #5 of the March 2, 2026, *Minutes* and Item #7 of the April 17, 2026, *Minutes*). The new request, dated April 16, 2026, asked the Committee to make a "determination" regarding the conduct of Senator Keith Murphy. It specifically asked if Senator Murphy should have declared a conflict of interest and recused from participation with respect to 2026 Senate Bill 416.

Chairman Gordon noted that the Committee is not authorized to make "determinations" except when it receives of a sworn complaint. Representative Lynn said that it appeared as though Representative MacKenzie may have been making a complaint, but for him to do so he has to follow the proper process. He suggested that the Committee could respond that if Representative MacKenzie were to submit a sworn complaint, the Committee would be happy to consider it. Senator Rosenwald suggested that instead of the responding to Representative MacKenzie's inquiries by letter a third time, the Committee should invite him to attend a meeting for a discussion.

After further brief discussion, Representative Lynn moved to respond to Representative MacKenzie that it cannot answer his questions in the way they were presented but would be pleased to discuss the process and answer general questions with him. Vice Chairman Sytek seconded the motion and the Committee voted 7 to 0 in favor of the motion.

ITEM #7

Update of the status of SB 570, An Act relative to legislative ethics.

The Committee was provided with a copy of the report of the House Committee on Legislative Administration recommending Interim Study of SB 570.

ITEM #8

New/Other Business

There was no new or other business.

ITEM #9

Scheduling of the next meeting.

The Committee's next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

The Committee's meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20 P.M.

{Prepared by Richard M. Lambert, Executive Administrator}