

MINUTES  
LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE  
APRIL 17, 2026, MEETING  
{Approved: May 4, 2026}

The Legislative Ethics Committee (RSA 14-B:2) met on Friday, April 17, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. in Rooms 122-123 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, and Representative Catherine Rombeau. The Honorable David W. Hess was unable to attend. 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 March 13, 2026. Following review, Vice Chairman Sytek moved to adopt the *Minutes* as presented. Representative Lynn seconded the motion. Senator Rosenwald moved to amend Item #2 to include language stating that the Committee discussed adding definitions of general revenue bills. The Committee then voted 5 to 0 to adopt the *Minutes* as amended.

ITEM #2

Initial Review of *Complaint 2026-3*. (Nonpublic Session)

Vice Chairman Sytek moved to enter nonpublic session, pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d), to conduct an Initial Review of *Complaint 2026-3*. Representative Lynn seconded the motion, and the Committee voted as follows:

Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

Representative Lynn moved to exit nonpublic session. Senator Rosenwald seconded the motion, and the Committee voted as follows:

Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated, “I will note that the Committee has just come out of nonpublic session after conducting an initial review of *Complaint 2026-3*. Having conducted that initial review, the Committee found that there was a sufficient basis to move forward with the complaint and to initiate a preliminary investigation.”

ITEM #3

Initial Review of *Complaint 2026-4*. (Nonpublic Session)

Vice Chairman Sytek moved to enter nonpublic session, pursuant to RSA 14-B:3, I(d), to conduct an Initial Review of *Complaint 2026-4*. Senator Rosenwald seconded the motion, and the Committee voted as follows:

Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

Senator Rosenwald moved to exit nonpublic session. Representative Lynn seconded the motion, and the Committee voted as follows:

Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated, “The Committee has just come out of nonpublic session. During that nonpublic session, the Committee conducted an initial review of *Complaint 2026-4*. Having conducted that initial review, the Committee found that there was sufficient basis to move forward with the complaint and to initiate a preliminary investigation.”

ITEM #4

Discussion of *Complaint 2026-5*.

Chairman Gordon stated that the Committee’s next item of business was an initial review of *Complaint 2026-5*, but he said that, after the item was placed on the agenda, the respondent notified the Committee that he was waiving confidentiality. He noted that, under the Committee’s rules, there is a 7-day grace period from the date on the notification of the waiver sent to the complainant until the Committee may conduct the initial review.

The Committee then agreed to conduct the initial review at its next meeting.

ITEM #5

Initial Review of *Complaint 2026-6*. (Nonpublic Session)

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

Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

{NONPUBLIC SESSION}

Representative Lynn moved to exit nonpublic session. Senator Rosenwald seconded the motion, and the Committee voted as follows:

Representative Lynn	Yea
Representative Rombeau	Yea
Senator Ward	Yea
Chairman Gordon	Yea
Senator Rosenwald	Yea
Vice Chairman Sytek	Yea

{MOTION ADOPTED}

Chairman Gordon stated that the Committee had just come out of nonpublic session and that, during the nonpublic session, it conducted an initial review of *Complaint 2026-4*. He further stated that the Committee found that there was sufficient basis to move forward with the complaint and to initiate a preliminary investigation.

ITEM #6

Discussion of 2026 Senate Bill 570, An Act relative to legislative ethics, amending the existing provisions relating to recusal in RSA 14-C.

Chairman Gordon stated the House Committee on Legislative Administration held a hearing on the bill on April 15, and that Mr. Lambert had attended. He asked Mr. Lambert to summarize the hearing.

Mr. Lambert stated that Grant Bosse, who is the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Senate, spoke on behalf of Senate President Sharon Carson, the bill's prime sponsor. He said that Mr. Bosse very accurately described the bill's provisions and the reasoning behind proposed changes to the law and answered questions from the committee members for nearly an hour. He also said that he had answered questions from the committee. He said that his impression from the tenor and tone of the questions and comments of most of the committee members was that the bill would likely receive a recommendation of inexpedient to legislate, although the committee did not hold or schedule an executive session at that time.

ITEM #7

Consideration of a request for an advisory opinion from Rep. Mark MacKenzie.

Chairman Gordon noted that the request, dated March 30, 2026, was a follow-up to Representative MacKenzie's request of February 17, 2026, which the Committee had discussed at its March 2, meeting and responded to by letter dated March 13.

The Committee discussed that the March 13 letter of response to Representative MacKenzie stated that a request for an advisory opinion needs to be about the conduct of the requesting individual and not about the conduct of other individuals and that Representative MacKenzie's new request also asks about the conduct of other individuals.

Following further discussion, Representative Rombeau moved to authorize Chairman Gordon to draft a response outlining the differences among an advisory opinion, an interpretive ruling and a complaint. Vice Chairman Sytek seconded the motion and the Committee voted 6 to 0 in favor of the motion.

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 on May 4, 2026, at 9:00 A.M.

The Committee's meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 A.M.

{Prepared by Richard M. Lambert, Executive Administrator}