

## Article 40 - General Assembly

89.

The joint committee on legislative ethics is established. [There shall be ten members of the committee] THE COMMITTEE CONSISTS OF TEN MEMBERS, five to be members of the Senate of Maryland and five to be members of the House of Delegates of Maryland, and these members shall include ex officio, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates. The appointments shall be made by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House who shall also appoint a chairman and vice-chairman. The appointees shall serve at the pleasure of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

90.

It is the function of the committee:

(1) To promulgate rules of legislative ethics WHICH DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 40A with respect to conflicts of interest governing members of the General Assembly. The rules shall be presented by a joint resolution and become effective after adoption by a constitutional majority of each house voting separately. [; and the] THE rules shall be effective on a year-round basis AND MAY SUPPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 40A. THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES MAY REFER ANY MATTERS TO THE COMMITTEE WHICH THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE.

(2) To issue guidelines and establish procedures for the implementation of rules adopted.

(3) To issue advisory opinions upon request of members of the General Assembly regarding legislative ethics concerning an action taken or contemplated by any member. ~~AN OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL REMAIN IN FORCE UNLESS, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY THE CONSTITUTION, IT IS OVERRULED OR MODIFIED BY THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION. AN OPINION OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE GIVEN STRONG CONSIDERATION IN DETERMINATIONS BY THE COMMISSION AND ITS STAFF AFFECTING MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.~~

(4) To maintain public records as the rules require.

91.

The committee shall meet at times it deems appropriate. Its members shall serve without compensation for services rendered to the committee, but shall be paid their necessary expenses in carrying out their obligations under this subtitle.

91A. RULES OF ETHICS.