

(b) If the matter has been referred to the investigating committee pursuant to § 15-520(c)(2) of this subtitle, the investigating committee shall review the report of the Joint Ethics Committee and determine initially whether, based upon the reasons of the presiding officer or otherwise, further proceedings are justified. If the investigating committee determines that further proceedings are not justified, it shall so report to the presiding officer, and the proceedings shall be terminated.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the investigating committee shall review the report of the Joint Ethics Committee and, in such detail as it considers appropriate, conduct further proceedings until it is prepared to make a report pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. The proceedings shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Title 2, Subtitle 16 of this article to the extent those provisions are not inconsistent with § 15-516 of this subtitle or other provisions of this Part II.

(d) At the conclusion of its investigation pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the investigating committee shall make such findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for further proceedings as it considers appropriate and take one of the following actions:

(1) if the investigating committee concludes that there has been no violation, the investigating committee shall report its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the presiding officer of that branch of the legislature, and the proceedings shall be terminated.

(2) (i) if the investigating committee concludes that a violation has occurred, the investigating committee shall submit a written report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations to the presiding officer of that branch.

(ii) the report and formal record of the investigating committee shall be public records.

(iii) the presiding officer shall cause to be introduced a simple resolution setting forth the findings and conclusions and implementing the recommendations made by the investigating committee.

(e) In any matter concluded by a confidential report of the investigating committee to the presiding officer, upon request of the member the presiding officer shall introduce a simple resolution setting forth the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the investigating committee.]

[15-522.

(a) Each branch of the legislature by a simple resolution shall establish an investigating committee, as provided in Title 2, Subtitle 16 of this article, promptly upon the beginning of the first regular session after each gubernatorial election. Subject to further action of that branch of the legislature, that investigating committee shall function during and between sessions throughout each year of the term and until a new investigating committee is created.

(b) At the beginning of each regular session, the presiding officer by order shall appoint the members of the investigating committee from the members of that