

USED AS THE BASIS FOR INITIATING AN INVESTIGATION UNDER § 15-515 OF THIS SUBTITLE IF THE LEGISLATOR ACTS IN GOOD FAITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ADVICE OF THE COMMITTEE.

(G) (1) AN OPINION ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION IS BINDING ON ANY LEGISLATOR TO WHOM IT IS ADDRESSED.

(2) A PUBLISHED OPINION IS BINDING ON ALL MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

[15-515.

Any person may file with the Joint Ethics Committee a written statement, accompanied by an affidavit setting forth the facts upon which the statement is based, or the Joint Ethics Committee on its own may prepare a statement, alleging that a member may have violated standards of ethical conduct for legislators established by law or rule.]

15-515. COMPLAINTS.

(A) A COMPLAINT ALLEGING THAT A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY HAVE VIOLATED STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT, INCLUDING § 2-108 OF THIS ARTICLE, MAY BE FILED WITH THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE BY:

(1) A WRITTEN STATEMENT FROM ANY PERSON, ACCOMPANIED BY AN AFFIDAVIT SETTING FORTH THE FACTS UPON WHICH THE STATEMENT IS BASED;

(2) MOTION OF A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE; OR

(3) REFERRAL OF A MATTER TO THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE BY A PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS PROVIDED IN § 2-706(5) OF THIS ARTICLE.

(B) (1) THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE SHALL PROVIDE A COPY OF EACH COMPLAINT FILED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER OF THE HOUSE OF THE LEGISLATOR WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF THE COMPLAINT.

(2) BASED ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN A COMPLAINT PROVIDED TO A PRESIDING OFFICER UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF A PRESIDING OFFICER DETERMINES THAT IT IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR A JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE MEMBER FROM THAT HOUSE TO CONSIDER A PARTICULAR MATTER, THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL APPOINT A SUBSTITUTE MEMBER OF THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSES OF CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER.

[15-516.

Each statement filed or prepared pursuant to § 15-515 of this subtitle and the fact that it has been filed or prepared, any preliminary summary prepared pursuant to § 15-517 of this subtitle, all information relating to any proceedings under this Part II emanating from the statement including proceedings of an investigating committee pursuant to § 15-521 of this subtitle, and any reports thereupon are