

technical advice or explanation rendered by or at the request of appropriate officials of the County.

73-27. Effect of conflict of interests.

If, because of disqualification or disqualifications by interest under the provisions of this Article, less than a quorum of any body or agency of the County or of the State operating for the County is available to act upon any particular matter, the remaining member or members of such body or agency shall constitute a quorum and shall have authority to transact any business to the extent permitted by law; provided that this shall not be construed to permit transaction of business contrary to the quorum requirements or other provisions of State or other law.

73-28. Ethics Commission.

a. There is hereby established an Ethics Commission which shall consist of five members appointed by the County Executive subject to the confirmation of the County Council. Not more than three members of the Commission shall be of the same political party and at least one member shall be a member of the Montgomery County Bar Association. All members shall reside in and be qualified voters in the County. Appointments to the Commission shall be for staggered five-year terms, provided that appointments shall be made in such manner that the term of one member shall expire on June 30, 1969, the term of another member shall expire on June 30, 1970, the term of another member shall expire on June 30, 1971, the term of another member shall expire on June 30, 1972, and the term of another member shall expire on June 30, 1973. Their successors shall be appointed for terms of five years from the date of expiration of their respective terms of office; except that any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve only for the unexpired term, and any member of the Commission shall be eligible for reappointment. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation, but the Commission shall be furnished with office supplies and clerical assistance by the County. The Commission is authorized to receive complaints, conduct investigations upon complaints, or information received, hold private hearings, swear witnesses, render advisory opinions of this Article, and adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its business. The source of complaints, except to the accused official, and requests for advisory opinions and all investigations shall be kept confidential, but findings, recommendations, advisory opinions and interpretations may be made public in the Commission's discretion. The Commission shall keep accurate and complete records of its business. Upon receipt of a complaint or information alleging a violation of this Article, the Commission shall determine if there is probable cause to believe a violation has occurred. If no probable cause is determined, the Commission shall dismiss the matter summarily, with or without disclosing it to the official involved as it