

~~THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN FILED MAY BE MADE PUBLIC; UNLESS A REPORT THEREON IS MADE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (G).~~

~~(E) PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION BY COMMITTEE. THE COMMITTEE SHALL MAKE A PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF THE CHARGES IN THE STATEMENT.~~

~~(F) FURTHER PROCEEDINGS.~~

~~(1) NO VIOLATION. IF THE COMMITTEE DETERMINES AFTER THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO VIOLATION OF THIS SUBHEADING, THE MATTER IS CLOSED; AND THE PROCEEDINGS SHALL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC UNLESS THE LEGISLATOR, IN WRITING, SO REQUESTS.~~

~~(2) POSSIBLE VIOLATION. IF THE COMMITTEE DETERMINES AFTER THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBHEADING, THE LEGISLATOR SHALL BE NOTIFIED OF THE STATEMENT AND ALLOWED 15 DAYS TO FILE A WRITTEN ANSWER TO THE CHARGES IN THE STATEMENT.~~

~~(3) COMMITTEE ACTION. UPON RECEIVING THE LEGISLATOR'S ANSWER, THE COMMITTEE MAY EITHER (1) DISMISS THE CHARGES, IN WHICH CASE THE MATTER IS CLOSED, AND THE PROCEEDINGS SHALL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC UNLESS THE LEGISLATOR, IN WRITING, SO REQUESTS; OR (2) SCHEDULE A FORMAL HEARING ON THE CHARGES, WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER GIVING NOTICE TO THE PERSON WHO FILED THE STATEMENT AND TO THE LEGISLATOR.~~

~~(4) HEARING. THE HEARING SHALL NOT BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. THE LEGISLATOR MAY PRESENT EVIDENCE, CROSS EXAMINE WITNESSES, FACE AND EXAMINE HIS ACCUSER, AND BE REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL.~~

~~(G) LEGISLATIVE ACTION.~~

~~(1) REPORT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IF AFTER A FORMAL HEARING THE COMMITTEE DETERMINES THAT SUFFICIENT GROUNDS EXIST FOR A QUESTION OF SUBSTANTIAL CONFLICT OF INTERESTS, THE COMMITTEE SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE BRANCH OF THE LEGISLATURE OF WHICH THE LEGISLATOR IS A MEMBER, ACCOMPANIED BY A REQUEST THAT AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE BE ESTABLISHED TO DETERMINE IF A VIOLATION OF THIS SUBHEADING HAS OCCURRED.~~

~~(2) INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE. THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OR THE SENATE, AFTER RECEIVING THE REPORT, MAY ESTABLISH BY RESOLUTION AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE UNDER THE SUBTITLE "LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEES; CODE OF FAIR PROCEDURES" IN ARTICLE 40 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.~~

~~(3) ENFORCEMENT. IF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES OR THE SENATE DECIDES THAT THE LEGISLATOR HAS VIOLATED ANY PROVISION OF THIS ARTICLE OR ARTICLE 40A, IT MAY, BY RESOLUTION, REQUIRE COMPLIANCE, ISSUE A REPRIMAND, OR CENSURE THE LEGISLATOR.~~