

(B) AN EMPLOYEE OR APPLICANT FOR EMPLOYMENT SHALL HAVE THE SAME PROTECTIONS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION REGARDING ANY DISCLOSURE WHICH IS SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED BY LAW IF THE DISCLOSURE IS MADE EXCLUSIVELY TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AS PROVIDED IN § 12J OF THIS SUBTITLE.

12H.

(A) THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL SHALL DEVELOP RULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE HANDLING AND RESOLUTION OF ALLEGATIONS OF VIOLATIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE ~~AND--OF-PERSONNEL-ACTIONS-IN WHICH-A-VIOLATION-OF-THIS-SUBTITLE-IS-ASSERTED.~~

(B) ~~(1)~~ AN EMPLOYEE OR APPLICANT FOR EMPLOYMENT MAY CHARGE AN APPOINTING AUTHORITY WITH A VIOLATION OF § 12G OF THIS SUBTITLE IN A COMPLAINT FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF PERSONNEL. THE SECRETARY SHALL NOTIFY THE APPOINTING AUTHORITY OF THE COMPLAINT AND SHALL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AUTHORITY TO RESPOND TO THE COMPLAINT IN WRITING.

~~(2)--THE--APPOINTING--AUTHORITY--SHALL--INVESTIGATE ANY-DISCLOSURE-MADE-BY-THE-COMPLAINANT-AND--SHALL-REPORT--ITS FINDINGS--TO--THE--SECRETARY--AS--SOON--AS--PRACTICABLE--ANY ACTION-TAKEN-IN-RESPONSE-TO-THE-DISCLOSURE--SHALL--BE--INCLUDED IN-THE-REPORT-OF-FINDINGS.~~

(C) (1) THE SECRETARY SHALL INVESTIGATE ALL COMPLAINTS FILED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION. THE SECRETARY SHALL PROMPTLY SEND A COPY OF A COMPLAINT TO ANY PERSON NAMED IN THE COMPLAINT AS HAVING VIOLATED THIS SUBTITLE.

~~(2)--IF--A--COMPLAINT--ALLEGES--THAT--AN--INDIVIDUAL HAS-ENGAGED-IN-CRIMINAL-CONDUCT,--OR--IF--IN--THE--COURSE--OF--AN INVESTIGATION--EVIDENCE-OF-CRIMINAL-CONDUCT--IS--REVEALED,--THE SECRETARY--SHALL--REFER--THE--MATTER--TO--AN--APPROPRIATE PROSECUTORIAL-AGENCY.~~

(2) IF THE SECRETARY, IN THE COURSE OF INVESTIGATING A COMPLAINT, FINDS THAT THERE ARE REASONABLE GROUNDS TO BELIEVE THAT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE HAS BEEN COMMITTED, THE MATTER SHALL BE REFERRED PROMPTLY TO AN APPROPRIATE PROSECUTING AUTHORITY. THE SECRETARY SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE TO THE PROSECUTING AUTHORITY ALL PERTINENT EVIDENCE UNDER HIS CONTROL.

(3) WHENEVER THE SECRETARY INVESTIGATES REFERS ANY EVIDENCE OF CRIMINAL CONDUCT, HE SHALL NOTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL ALLEGED TO HAVE ENGAGED IN THE CONDUCT. THIS NOTICE SHALL CONTAIN:

- (I) A STATEMENT OF THE ALLEGATION:
- (II) NOTICE OF THE RIGHT TO OBTAIN LEGAL REPRESENTATION;