

[Advisory] (A) [Opinion] OPINIONS. A legislator in doubt as to the propriety of any action proposed to be taken by [him] THE LEGISLATOR and involving a possible VIOLATION OF APPLICABLE STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR LEGISLATORS ESTABLISHED BY LAW OR RULE [conflict of interests under this subheading] may request IN WRITING THAT the Committee [to] render an advisory opinion on the facts. The advisory opinion, with deletions and changes necessary to protect the legislator's identity, shall be filed with the presiding [office] OFFICER of the legislator's branch of the Legislature for recordation with the Clerk of the House of Delegates or Secretary of the Senate[; and the]. IN ADDITION, THE COMMITTEE ON ITS OWN MOTION MAY RENDER ADVISORY OPINIONS AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY. EACH advisory opinion shall be kept and indexed in relation to the subject matter for the purpose of building a body of case law.

(B) RECOMMENDATIONS. EITHER PRESIDING OFFICER MAY REFER ANY QUESTION OF PROPRIETY RELATING TO THE USE OF EXPENSE FUNDS GOVERNED BY DULY ADOPTED GUIDELINES TO THE COMMITTEE FOR RECOMMENDATION.

108. [Filing Charge of Conflict of Interests] ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF ETHICAL STANDARDS.

Any person may file with the Committee a written statement, accompanied by an affidavit SETTING FORTH THE FACTS UPON WHICH THE STATEMENT IS BASED, OR THE COMMITTEE ON ITS OWN MAY PREPARE A STATEMENT, ALEGING THAT A MEMBER MAY HAVE VIOLATED STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR LEGISLATORS ESTABLISHED BY LAW OR RULE.[, charging a violation of the Rules in this subheading.]

109. CONFIDENTIALITY.

[The] EACH statement FILED OR PREPARED PURSUANT TO RULE 108 AND THE FACT THAT IT HAS BEEN FILED OR PREPARED, ANY PRELIMINARY SUMMARY PREPARED PURSUANT TO RULE 110(C), ALL INFORMATION RELATING TO ANY PROCEEDINGS UNDER THESE RULES EMANATING FROM THE STATEMENT INCLUDING PROCEEDINGS OF AN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE PURSUANT TO RULE 114, AND ANY REPORTS THEREUPON ARE [is] confidential[,] and [neither its contents nor the fact that it has been filed may be made public], EXCEPT AS PERMITTED BY THESE RULES OR UPON THE WRITTEN REQUEST OF THE LEGISLATOR INVOLVED, SHALL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.[, unless a report thereon is made pursuant to Rule 111.]

[109. Preliminary Investigation by Committee.

The Committee shall make a preliminary investigation of the charges in the statement.]

110. PRELIMINARY REVIEW BY COMMITTEE.

(A) PRELIMINARY REVIEW AND FINDING. FOLLOWING THE FILING OR PREPARATION OF A STATEMENT PURSUANT TO RULE 108, THE COMMITTEE