

written answer to the [charges in the statement] PRELIMINARY SUMMARY.

[(c)] (B) Committee Action.

(1) [Upon receiving] FOLLOWING NOTIFICATION OF THE LEGISLATOR, THE COMMITTEE SHALL:

(I) [the legislator's answer, the Committee may either (1) dismiss the charges] TERMINATE THE PROCEEDINGS IF AN ANSWER FROM THE LEGISLATOR IS TIMELY FILED AND THE COMMITTEE FINDS THAT, UPON A BASIS SET FORTH IN RULE 110(A)(1)-(5), FURTHER PROCEEDINGS ARE NOT JUSTIFIED, in which case [the matter is closed, and the proceedings shall not be made public unless the legislator, in writing, so requests;] RULE 110(B) SHALL GOVERN. [or]

(II) SCHEDULE A HEARING IF:

1. AN ANSWER FROM THE LEGISLATOR IS TIMELY FILED BUT THE COMMITTEE FINDS NO BASIS FOR TERMINATING THE PROCEEDINGS PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (I); OR

2. NO ANSWER IS TIMELY FILED.

(2) [schedule a formal hearing on the charges, within] NO HEARING SHALL BE SCHEDULED LESS THAN twenty days [after giving notice] AFTER WRITTEN NOTICE THEREOF IS PROVIDED TO THE LEGISLATOR AND TO ANY person who filed the statement. [and to the legislator.]

(3) THE COMMITTEE MAY AMEND THE PRELIMINARY SUMMARY AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE HEARING. IF THE PRELIMINARY SUMMARY IS AMENDED, THE PROCESS ESTABLISHED IN SUBPARAGRAPHS (1) AND (2) SHALL BE REPEATED.

[(d)] (C) Hearing. [The hearing shall not be open to the public.] AT THE HEARING, THE COMMITTEE SHALL DEVELOP AN EVIDENTIARY RECORD RELATING TO THE ISSUES RAISED BY THE PRELIMINARY SUMMARY AND ANY AMENDMENTS THERETO. The legislator may present evidence, cross-examine witnesses, face and examine [his accuser,] ANY PERSON WHO HAS FILED A STATEMENT IN THE MATTER, and be represented by counsel. THE HEARING SHALL BE RECORDED.

[111. Legislative Action.

(a) 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.