

(ee) "School official" means each member of a school board and those of its officials and employees designated as such by that board.

(ff) "School system" means the educational system under the authority of any school board.

(gg) "State official" means a member or member-elect of the General Assembly, a judge or judge-elect of a court created by Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution and a person defined in Rule 11 of Maryland Rule No. 1232 or a constitutional officer or officer-elect in an executive agency of the State government. State official also means a person holding office as State's Attorney, clerk of the circuit court for each county, register of wills, and sheriff.

(hh) "Superintendent" means any person designated as such in Section 1-101(e) of the Education Article.

2-105.

(a) Any person may file, under oath, a written, signed complaint with the Commission alleging a violation of any of the provisions of this article, and the Commission on its own motion may issue a complaint alleging a violation of this article. The Commission promptly shall provide the respondent with a copy of the complaint.

(b) If the complaint concerns a State official who is a judge of a court established under Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, the Commission promptly shall refer the complaint to the Commission on Judicial Disabilities for further action.

(c) If the complaint concerns a State official of the legislative branch and a violation of Title 3 of this article, the Commission promptly shall refer the complaint to the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics for further action.

(d) If the complaint concerns any other ~~official or any~~ employee PERSON, the Commission promptly shall refer the complaint to its staff counsel for further action. With respect to such complaints:

(1) The staff counsel shall collect evidence relating to the allegations of the complaint and refer that evidence to the Commission for disposition.

(2) If the Commission determines that the evidence does not merit further proceedings the complaint shall be dismissed by the Commission in a signed order. An order of dismissal shall be sent to the complainant and to the respondent forthwith.

(3) Prior to referring evidence to the Commission, the staff counsel shall notify the complainant and respondent.