

15-512. Suspension of disqualification.

(a) (1) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, THE DISQUALIFICATION ARISING UNDER § 15-511 OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY NOT BE SUSPENDED IF THE CONFLICT IS DIRECT AND PERSONAL TO:

- ~~(A)~~ 1. THE LEGISLATOR;
- ~~(B)~~ 2. A MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATOR'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY; OR
- ~~(C)~~ 3. THE LEGISLATOR'S EMPLOYER.

(II) THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO A VOTE ON:

- 1. THE ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET BILL, IN ITS ENTIRETY;
- OR
- 2. THE ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET BILL, IN ITS ENTIRETY.

(2) [The] AS TO ANY OTHER CONFLICT, THE disqualification arising under § 15-511 of this subtitle is suspended if a legislator with an apparent OR PRESUMED conflict files with the Joint Ethics Committee a sworn statement [which] THAT describes the circumstances of the apparent OR PRESUMED conflict and the legislation OR CLASS OF LEGISLATION to which it relates and asserts the legislator is able to vote and otherwise participate in [legislative] action relating [thereto] TO THE LEGISLATION, fairly, objectively, and in the public interest.

(B) (1) Whenever a legislator files a statement for the suspension of the disqualification, the Joint Ethics Committee on its own motion may issue a statement concerning the propriety of the legislator's participation in the particular legislative action, with reference to the applicable ethical standards of this matter.

[(b)] (2) The suspension of the disqualification by the filing of the statement is subject to further action by the Joint Ethics Committee if the question of conflict comes before it as to the same circumstances and the same legislator.

(C) A MEMBER WHO IS DISQUALIFIED FROM PARTICIPATING IN LEGISLATIVE ACTION UNDER SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, OR WHO CHOOSES TO BE EXCUSED FROM PARTICIPATING IN LEGISLATIVE ACTION ON A BILL OR CLASS OF BILLS BECAUSE OF THE APPEARANCE OR PRESUMPTION OF A CONFLICT, SHALL FILE IN A TIMELY MANNER A STATEMENT WITH THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE THAT DESCRIBES THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE APPARENT OR PRESUMED CONFLICT.

[(c)] (D) (1) All [sworn] statements filed under this section shall be a matter of public record.

(2) THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE SHALL DEVELOP PROCEDURES UNDER WHICH A STATEMENT FILED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY BE FILED ELECTRONICALLY WITHOUT ANY ADDITIONAL COST TO THE LEGISLATOR.

~~(3) THE JOINT ETHICS COMMITTEE SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE AS A PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INTERNET DOCUMENT EACH STATEMENT FILED UNDER THIS SECTION.~~