

[15-519.

Promptly upon making a finding pursuant to § 15-518(d) of this subtitle, the Joint Ethics Committee shall submit a written report of its proceedings, including its finding, to the presiding officer of the branch of the legislature of which the legislator is a member.]

[15-520.

(a) The presiding officer shall review each report submitted pursuant to § 15-519 of this subtitle.

(b) If the report contains a finding under § 15-518(d)(1) of this subtitle, the proceedings shall be terminated.

(c) If the report contains a finding under § 15-518(d)(2) of this subtitle and:

(1) if the presiding officer agrees with the finding contained in the report of the Joint Ethics Committee, the proceedings shall be terminated.

(2) if the presiding officer disagrees with the report of the Joint Ethics Committee, the reasons for disagreement shall be stated in writing and forwarded, together with the report, to an investigating committee created pursuant to the provisions of § 15-522 of this subtitle for further proceedings.

(d) If the report includes a finding under § 15-518(d)(2) of this subtitle, the presiding officer shall promptly forward the report to an investigating committee created pursuant to § 15-522 of this subtitle for further proceedings.]

[15-521.

(a) This section governs all matters referred to an investigating committee pursuant to this Part II.

(b) If the matter has been referred to the investigating committee pursuant to § 15-520(c)(2) of this subtitle, the investigating committee shall review the report of the Joint Ethics Committee and determine initially whether, based upon the reasons of the presiding officer or otherwise, further proceedings are justified. If the investigating committee determines that further proceedings are not justified, it shall so report to the presiding officer, and the proceedings shall be terminated.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, the investigating committee shall review the report of the Joint Ethics Committee and, in such detail as it considers appropriate, conduct further proceedings until it is prepared to make a report pursuant to subsection (d) of this section. The proceedings shall be conducted pursuant to the provisions of Title 2, Subtitle 16 of this article to the extent those provisions are not inconsistent with § 15-516 of this subtitle or other provisions of this Part II.

(d) At the conclusion of its investigation pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the investigating committee shall make such findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations for further proceedings as it considers appropriate and take one of the following actions: