

Office on Advice and Education (hereinafter in this subsection referred to as the “Office”) under the supervision of the chairman.

(2) The Office shall be headed by a director who shall be appointed by the chairman, in consultation with the ranking minority member, and shall be comprised of such staff as the chairman determines is necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Office.

(3) The primary responsibilities of the Office shall include:

(A) Providing information and guidance to Members, officers and employees of the House regarding any laws, rules, regulations, and other standards of conduct applicable to such individuals in their official capacities, and any interpretations and advisory opinions of the committee.

(B) Submitting to the chairman and ranking minority member of the committee any written request from any such Member, officer or employee for an interpretation of applicable laws, rules, regulations, or other standards of conduct, together with any recommendations thereon.

(C) Recommending to the committee for its consideration formal advisory opinions of general applicability.

(D) Developing and carrying out, subject to the approval of the chairman, periodic educational briefings for Members, officers and employees of the House on those laws, rules, regulations, or other standards of conduct applicable to them.

(4) No information provided to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct by a Member, officer or employee of the House of Representatives when seeking advice regarding prospective conduct of such Member, officer or employee may be used as the basis for initiating an investigation under clause 4(e)(1)(B) of rule X<sup>1</sup> of the Rules of the House of Representatives, if such Member, officer or employee acts in accordance with the written advice of the committee.

**(j) Effective date**

This section shall take effect immediately before noon January 3, 1991, except that subsections (g), (h), and (i) shall take effect on January 1, 1990.

(Pub. L. 101–194, title VIII, § 803, Nov. 30, 1989, 103 Stat. 1774.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Rules of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Sixth Congress were adopted and amended generally by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Sixth Congress, Jan. 6, 1999. Provisions formerly appearing in clause 5(d) of rule XI, referred to in subsecs. (c) and (d), are now contained in clause 6(d) of rule X. Provisions formerly appearing in clause 4(e)(1)(B) of rule X, referred to in subsecs. (d)(3) and (i)(4), are now contained in clause 3(a)(2) of rule XI.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 29d of this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

Section is comprised of section 803 of Pub. L. 101–194. Subsecs. (a) and (e) to (h) of section 803 amended the Rules of the House of Representatives which are not classified to the Code.

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Ethics of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, Jan. 5, 2011.

ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS; AMENDMENTS TO ADVISORY OPINIONS

Pub. L. 101–194, title VIII, § 801(e), Nov. 30, 1989, 103 Stat. 1772, provided that: “The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct [now Committee on Ethics] of the House of Representatives shall amend its advisory opinions relating to the acceptance of gifts (1) to prohibit lodging received as personal hospitality in excess of 30 days in any calendar year from any individual unless a written waiver is granted by the committee and (2) to exempt gifts of food and beverages consumed not in connection with gifts of lodging from coverage under clause 4 of rule XLIII [now clause 4 of rule XXIII] of the Rules of the House of Representatives.”

NONCAMPAIGN USE OF CAMPAIGN VEHICLES

Pub. L. 101–194, title VIII, § 802(e), Nov. 30, 1989, 103 Stat. 1773, provided that: “The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct [now Committee on Ethics] of the House of Representatives shall issue an advisory opinion to provide for appropriate conditions for the incidental noncampaign use of vehicles owned or leased by a campaign committee of a Member of the House of Representatives.”

RESTRICTIONS ON REIMBURSABLE TRAVEL EXPENSES

Pub. L. 101–194, title VIII, § 805, Nov. 30, 1989, 103 Stat. 1778, provided that:

“(a) RESTRICTIONS.—The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct [now Committee on Ethics] of the House of Representatives shall amend its advisory opinions relating to the acceptance of necessary travel expenses incurred on or after January 1, 1990, in connection with speaking engagements and similar events to—

“(1) prohibit the acceptance of such expenses for more than 4 consecutive days in the case of domestic travel and 7 consecutive days (excluding travel days) in the case of foreign travel; and

“(2) permit the acceptance of travel expenses for the spouse or other family member in connection with any substantial participation event or fact-finding activity.

“(b) EXEMPTION AUTHORITY.—The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct [now Committee on Ethics] of the House of Representatives is authorized to grant prior written exemptions from the limitations contained in subsection (a)(1) in exceptional circumstances.”

**§ 4712. Posting of travel and financial disclosure reports on public website of Clerk of the House of Representatives**

**(a) Requiring posting on Internet**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall post on the public Internet site of the Office of the Clerk, in a format that is searchable, sortable, and downloadable, to the extent technically practicable, each of the following:

(1) The advance authorizations, certifications, and disclosures filed with respect to transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel under clause 5(b) of rule XXV of the Rules of the House of Representatives by Members (including Delegates and Resident Commissioners to the Congress), officers, and employees of the House.

(2) The reports filed under section 103(h)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 by Mem-

bers of the House of Representatives (including Delegates and Resident Commissioners to the Congress).

**(b) Applicability and timing**

**(1) Applicability**

Subject to paragraph (2), subsection (a) shall apply with respect to information received by the Clerk of the House of Representatives on or after September 14, 2007.

**(2) Timing**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall—

(A) not later than August 1, 2008, post the information required by subsection (a) that the Clerk receives by June 1, 2008; and

(B) not later than the end of each 45-day period occurring after information is required to be posted under subparagraph (A), post the information required by subsection (a) that the Clerk has received since the last posting under this subsection.

**(3) Omission of personally identifiable information**

Members of the House of Representatives (including Delegates and Resident Commissioners to the Congress) shall be permitted to omit personally identifiable information not required to be disclosed on the reports posted on the public Internet site under this section (such as home address, Social Security numbers, personal bank account numbers, home telephone, and names of children) prior to the posting of such reports on such public Internet site.

**(4) Assistance in protecting personal information**

The Clerk of the House of Representatives, in consultation with the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, shall include in any informational materials concerning any disclosure that will be posted on the public Internet site under this section an explanation of the procedures for protecting personally identifiable information as described in this section.

**(c) Retention**

The Clerk shall maintain the information posted on the public Internet site of the Office of the Clerk under this section for a period of 6 years after receiving the information, or, in the case of reports filed under section 103(h)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, until the expiration of the 6-year period which begins on the date the individual is no longer a Member of Congress.

(Pub. L. 110-81, title III, §304, Sept. 14, 2007, 121 Stat. 752; Pub. L. 112-105, §19(b)(1), Apr. 4, 2012, 126 Stat. 304.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 103(h)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, referred to in subsecs. (a)(2) and (c), is section 103(h)(1) of Pub. L. 95-521, which is set out in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 104e of this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 112-105 substituted “, or, in the case of reports filed under section 103(h)(1) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, until the expiration of the 6-year period which begins on the date the individual is no longer a Member of Congress.” for period at end.

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Ethics of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, Jan. 5, 2011.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 112-105, §19(b)(2), Apr. 4, 2012, 126 Stat. 305, provided that: “The amendment made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall apply with respect to any report which is filed on or after the date on which the systems developed by the Secretary and Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives under section 8(b) [of Pub. L. 112-105, set out as a note under section 105 of Pub. L. 95-521, in the Appendix to Title 5, Government Organization and Employees] first take effect.”

EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Pub. L. 110-81, title III, §306, Sept. 14, 2007, 121 Stat. 754, provided that: “The provisions of this title [enacting this section] are adopted by the House of Representatives—

“(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the House; and

“(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of the House to change those rules at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of the House.”

**§4713. Reporting payments made to witnesses before Committee on Standards of Official Conduct**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law or any other rule or regulation, any information on payments made by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of the House of Representatives to an individual for attendance as a witness before the Committee in executive session during a Congress shall be reported not later than the second semiannual report filed under section 5535 of this title in the following Congress.

(Pub. L. 105-275, title I, §105, Oct. 21, 1998, 112 Stat. 2439.)

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified as a note under section 104b of this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

CHANGE OF NAME

Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of House of Representatives changed to Committee on Ethics of House of Representatives by House Resolution No. 5, One Hundred Twelfth Congress, Jan. 5, 2011.

SUBCHAPTER III—SENATE

**§4721. Referral of ethics violations by Senate Ethics Committee to Government Accountability Office for investigation**

If the Committee on Ethics of the Senate determines that there is a reasonable basis to believe that a Member, officer, or employee of the Senate may have committed an ethics violation,