

“(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 Members 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.)

Editorial Notes

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.

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

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.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

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

Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

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, the committee may request the Office of Special Investigations of the Government Accountability Office to conduct factfinding and an investigation into the matter. The Office of Special Investigations shall promptly investigate the matter as directed by the committee.

(Pub. L. 101-194, title V, §501, Nov. 30, 1989, 103 Stat. 1753; Pub. L. 108-271, §8(b), July 7, 2004, 118 Stat. 814.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 72a-1g of this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

AMENDMENTS

2004—Pub. L. 108-271 substituted “Government Accountability Office” for “General Accounting Office” in section catchline and text.

§ 4722. Mandatory Senate ethics training for Members and staff

(a) Training program

The Select Committee on Ethics shall conduct ongoing ethics training and awareness programs for Members of the Senate and Senate staff.

(b) Requirements

The ethics training program conducted by the Select Committee on Ethics shall be completed by—

- (1) new Senators or staff not later than 60 days after commencing service or employment; and

- (2) Senators and Senate staff serving or employed on September 14, 2007, not later than 165 days after September 14, 2007.

(Pub. L. 110-81, title V, §553, Sept. 14, 2007, 121 Stat. 773.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 72a-1h of this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

§ 4723. Annual report by Select Committee on Ethics

The Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate shall issue an annual report due no later than January 31, describing the following:

- (1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or staff of the committee.

- (2) A list of the number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) for lack of subject matter jurisdiction or, in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist; or

(B) because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion.

- (3) The number of alleged violations in which the committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry.

- (4) The number of alleged violations that resulted in an adjudicatory review.

- (5) The number of alleged violations that the committee dismissed for lack of substantial merit.

- (6) The number of private letters of admonition or public letters of admonition issued.

- (7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction.

- (8) Any other information deemed by the committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the preceding year.

(Pub. L. 110-81, title V, §554, Sept. 14, 2007, 121 Stat. 773.)

Editorial Notes

CODIFICATION

Section was formerly classified to section 72a-1i of this title prior to editorial reclassification and renumbering as this section.

§ 4724. Amendment to Senate conflict of interest rule

(a) Except as provided by subsection (b), any employee of the Senate who is required to file a report pursuant to Senate rules shall refrain from participating personally and substantially as an employee of the Senate in any contact with any agency of the executive or judicial branch of Government with respect to non-legislative matters affecting any non-governmental person in which the employee has a significant financial interest.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply if an employee first advises his supervisor of his signifi-