

Joint Legislative Ethics Committee

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- Monitors ethics compliance; investigates complaints; sanctions as appropriate
- Administers mandatory lobbyist registrations and filings
- Handles annual legislative financial disclosure statement filings

OVERVIEW

Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities of the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee (JLEC), which was created to serve the General Assembly, include the following:

- Establishing and enforcing a standard code of ethics;
- Receiving and hearing complaints alleging breaches of privilege, misconduct, or ethics violations;
- Obtaining information with respect to any complaint;
- Recommending appropriate sanctions;
- Acting as an advisory body on questions relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure;
- Administering the annual financial disclosure forms of legislative officials and staff; and
- Administering legislative, retirement system, and executive agency lobbyist registrations and filings.

This legislative agency consists of two components: (1) a 12-member legislative committee, and (2) the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, which employs an executive director and a staff of five for the purpose of assisting the legislative committee in exercising its powers and duties. The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate appoint six of the legislative committee members each, and not more than three can be from the same political party.

Agency in Brief

The following table selectively summarizes JLEC appropriations and staffing information. JLEC's annual operating expenses are financed entirely by moneys appropriated from the GRF.

JLEC In Brief					
Number of Employees*	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2006	2007	2006	2007	
5	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$550,000	Am. Sub. H.B. 66

*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 2005.

Vetoed Provisions

JLEC is not directly affected by any of the items contained in Am. Sub. H.B. 66 that were vetoed by the Governor.

ANALYSIS OF THE ENACTED BUDGET

For budget purposes, as detailed below, the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee is considered a single program series agency and its activities are not subdivided into separate programs.

Program Series 1

Legislative Inspector General

Purpose: To enable the Office of the Legislative Inspector General to assist JLEC in exercising its powers and duties.

The following table shows the lone line item that is used to fund the Office of the Legislative Inspector General, as well as the enacted funding levels.

Fund	ALI	Title	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Revenue Fund				
GRF	028-321	Legislative Ethics Committee	\$550,000	\$550,000
	General Revenue Fund Subtotal		\$550,000	\$550,000
	Total Funding: Legislative Inspector General		\$550,000	\$550,000

Legislative Inspector General

Program Description: The program supports JLEC and the Office of the Legislative Inspector General in performing various duties and responsibilities, including, but not limited to: (1) establishing and enforcing a standard code of ethics to govern all members and employees of the state legislature and all candidates seeking election to the state legislature, (2) receiving and hearing complaints alleging breaches of privilege, misconduct, or ethics violations, (3) acting as an advisory body on questions relating to ethics, conflicts of interest, and financial disclosure, (4) administering the annual financial

disclosure forms of legislative officials and staff, and (5) administering legislative, retirement system, and executive agency lobbyist registrations and filings.

Funding Source: GRF

Implication of the Enacted Budget: The enacted funding levels appear to be sufficient to allow JLEC and the Office of the Legislative Inspector General to carry out statutorily mandated duties and responsibilities.