

# 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, which was created to serve the General Assembly, include, but are not limited to, 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.
- 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

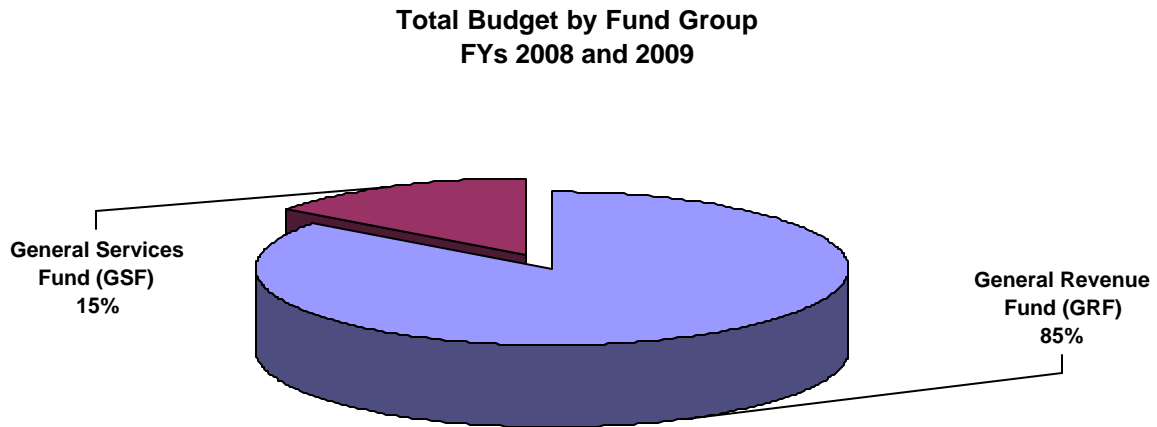
The following table selectively summarizes Joint Legislative Ethics Committee appropriations and staffing information.

| Agency In Brief      |                                |           |                    |           |                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Number of Employees* | Total Appropriations-All Funds |           | GRF Appropriations |           | Appropriation Bill(s) |
|                      | 2008                           | 2009      | 2008               | 2009      |                       |
| 6                    | \$650,000                      | \$650,000 | \$550,000          | \$550,000 | Am. Sub. H.B. 119     |

\*Employee count obtained from the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) payroll reports as of June 15, 2007.

### Expense by Fund Group Summary

The pie chart immediately below shows the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee's total enacted appropriations (FYs 2008 and 2009) by fund group. This information includes moneys appropriated from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) and the General Services Fund (GSF) Group.



## ANALYSIS OF THE 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.

### Single Program Series

### Legislative Inspector General

**Purpose:** To enable the Office of the Legislative Inspector General to assist the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee in exercising its powers and duties

The following table shows the two line items that are used to fund the Legislative Inspector General, as well as the enacted funding levels.

| Fund  | ALI     | Title                              | FY 2008          | FY 2009          |
|---|---------|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>General Revenue Fund</b>                         |         |                                    |                  |                  |
| GRF   | 028-321 | Legislative Ethics Committee       | \$550,000        | \$550,000        |
| <b>General Services Fund</b>                        |         |                                    |                  |                  |
| 4G7   | 028-601 | Joint Legislative Ethics Committee | \$100,000        | \$100,000        |
| <b>Total Funding: Legislative Inspector General</b> |         |                                    | <b>\$650,000</b> | <b>\$650,000</b> |

**Program Description:** The program supports the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee 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, employees, and 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:** (1) GRF, and (2) initial, update, and late registration fees paid by lobbyists and their employers

**Implication of the Budget:** The enacted budget appropriates an amount of money in each of FYs 2008 and 2009 that should be sufficient enough to permit the Joint Legislative Ethics Committee and the Office of the Inspector General to carry out statutorily mandated duties and responsibilities.

**FY 2008 - 2009 Final Appropriation Amounts**

**All Fund Group**

| <i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>                     |         |                                    | <i>FY 2005:</i>         | <i>FY 2006:</i>   | <i>FY 2007 Adj. Appropriations:</i> | <i>FY 2008 Appropriations:</i> | <i>% Change 2007 to 2008:</i> | <i>FY 2009 Appropriations:</i> | <i>% Change 2008 to 2009:</i> |
|---|---------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill</b> |         |                                    | <b>Version: Enacted</b> |                   |                                     |                                |                               |                                |                               |
| <b>JLE Legislative Ethics Committee, Joint</b>        |         |                                    |                         |                   |                                     |                                |                               |                                |                               |
| GRF   | 028-321 | Legislative Ethics Committee       | \$ 448,773              | \$ 516,244        | \$ 550,000                          | \$ 550,000                     | 0.00%                         | \$ 550,000                     | 0.00%                         |
| <b>General Revenue Fund Total</b>                     |         |                                    | <b>\$ 448,773</b>       | <b>\$ 516,244</b> | <b>\$ 550,000</b>                   | <b>\$ 550,000</b>              | <b>0.00%</b>                  | <b>\$ 550,000</b>              | <b>0.00%</b>                  |
| 4G7   | 028-601 | Joint Legislative Ethics Committee | ----                    | ----              | \$ 100,000                          | \$ 100,000                     | 0.00%                         | \$ 100,000                     | 0.00%                         |
| <b>General Services Fund Group Total</b>              |         |                                    | <b>----</b>             | <b>----</b>       | <b>\$ 100,000</b>                   | <b>\$ 100,000</b>              | <b>0.00%</b>                  | <b>\$ 100,000</b>              | <b>0.00%</b>                  |
| <b>Legislative Ethics Committee, Joint Total</b>      |         |                                    | <b>\$ 448,773</b>       | <b>\$ 516,244</b> | <b>\$ 650,000</b>                   | <b>\$ 650,000</b>              | <b>0.00%</b>                  | <b>\$ 650,000</b>              | <b>0.00%</b>                  |