

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 969

94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR SCOTT.

Read 1st time January 16, 2008, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

3352S.011

AN ACT

To repeal section 105.955, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the executive director of the Ethics Commission, with an emergency clause.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 105.955, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 105.955, to read as follows:

105.955. 1. A bipartisan "Missouri Ethics Commission", composed of six
2 members, is hereby established. The commission shall be assigned to the office
3 of administration with supervision by the office of administration only for
4 budgeting and reporting as provided by subdivisions (4) and (5) of subsection 6
5 of section 1 of the Reorganization Act of 1974. Supervision by the office of
6 administration shall not extend to matters relating to policies, regulative
7 functions or appeals from decisions of the commission, and the commissioner of
8 administration, any employee of the office of administration, or the governor,
9 either directly or indirectly, shall not participate or interfere with the activities
10 of the commission in any manner not specifically provided by law and shall not
11 in any manner interfere with the budget request of or withhold any moneys
12 appropriated to the commission by the general assembly. All members of the
13 commission shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the
14 senate from lists submitted pursuant to this section. Each congressional district
15 committee of the political parties having the two highest number of votes cast for
16 their candidate for governor at the last gubernatorial election shall submit two
17 names of eligible nominees for membership on the commission to the governor,
18 and the governor shall select six members from such nominees to serve on the
19 commission.

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

20 2. Within thirty days of submission of the person's name to the governor
21 as provided in subsection 1 of this section, and in order to be an eligible nominee
22 for appointment to the commission, a person shall file a financial interest
23 statement in the manner provided by section 105.485 and shall provide the
24 governor, the president pro tempore of the senate, and the commission with a list
25 of all political contributions and the name of the candidate or committee, political
26 party, or continuing committee, as defined in chapter 130, RSMo, to which those
27 contributions were made within the four-year period prior to such appointment,
28 made by the nominee, the nominee's spouse, or any business entity in which the
29 nominee has a substantial interest. The information shall be maintained by the
30 commission and available for public inspection during the period of time during
31 which the appointee is a member of the commission. In order to be an eligible
32 nominee for membership on the commission, a person shall be a citizen and a
33 resident of the state and shall have been a registered voter in the state for a
34 period of at least five years preceding the person's appointment.

35 3. The term of each member shall be for four years, except that of the
36 members first appointed, the governor shall select three members from
37 even-numbered congressional districts and three members from odd-numbered
38 districts. Not more than three members of the commission shall be members of
39 the same political party, nor shall more than one member be from any one United
40 States congressional district. Not more than two members appointed from the
41 even-numbered congressional districts shall be members of the same political
42 party, and no more than two members from the odd-numbered congressional
43 districts shall be members of the same political party. Of the members first
44 appointed, the terms of the members appointed from the odd-numbered
45 congressional districts shall expire on March 15, 1994, and the terms of the
46 members appointed from the even-numbered congressional districts shall expire
47 on March 15, 1996. Thereafter all successor members of the commission shall be
48 appointed for four-year terms. Terms of successor members of the commission
49 shall expire on March fifteenth of the fourth year of their term. No member of
50 the commission shall serve on the commission after the expiration of the
51 member's term. No person shall be appointed to more than one full four-year
52 term on the commission.

53 4. Vacancies or expired terms on the commission shall be filled in the
54 same manner as the original appointment was made, except as provided in this
55 subsection. Within thirty days of the vacancy or ninety days before the expiration

56 of the term, the names of two eligible nominees for membership on the
57 commission shall be submitted to the governor by the congressional district
58 committees of the political party or parties of the vacating member or members,
59 from the even- or odd-numbered congressional districts, based on the residence
60 of the vacating member or members, other than from the congressional district
61 committees from districts then represented on the commission and from the same
62 congressional district party committee or committees which originally appointed
63 the member or members whose positions are vacated. Appointments to fill
64 vacancies or expired terms shall be made within forty-five days after the deadline
65 for submission of names by the congressional district committees, and shall be
66 subject to the same qualifications for appointment and eligibility as is provided
67 in subsections 2 and 3 of this section. Appointments to fill vacancies for
68 unexpired terms shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term of the member
69 whom the appointee succeeds, and such appointees shall be eligible for
70 appointment to one full four-year term. If the congressional district committee
71 does not submit the required two nominees within the thirty days or if the
72 congressional district committee does not submit the two nominees within an
73 additional thirty days after receiving notice from the governor to submit the
74 nominees, then the governor may appoint a person or persons who shall be
75 subject to the same qualifications for appointment and eligibility as provided in
76 subsections 2 and 3 of this section.

77 5. The governor, with the advice and consent of the senate, may remove
78 any member only for substantial neglect of duty, inability to discharge the powers
79 and duties of office, gross misconduct or conviction of a felony or a crime involving
80 moral turpitude. Members of the commission also may be removed from office by
81 concurrent resolution of the general assembly signed by the governor. If such
82 resolution receives the vote of two-thirds or more of the membership of both
83 houses of the general assembly, the signature of the governor shall not be
84 necessary to effect removal. The office of any member of the commission who
85 moves from the congressional district from which the member was appointed shall
86 be deemed vacated upon such change of residence.

87 6. The commission shall elect biennially one of its members as the
88 chairman. The chairman may not succeed himself or herself after two years. No
89 member of the commission shall succeed as chairman any member of the same
90 political party as himself or herself. At least four members are necessary to
91 constitute a quorum, and at least four affirmative votes shall be required for any

92 action or recommendation of the commission.

93 7. No member or employee of the commission, during the person's term
94 of service, shall hold or be a candidate for any other public office.

95 8. In the event that a retired judge is appointed as a member of the
96 commission, the judge shall not serve as a special investigator while serving as
97 a member of the commission.

98 9. No member of the commission shall, during the member's term of
99 service or within one year thereafter:

100 (1) Be employed by the state or any political subdivision of the state;

101 (2) Be employed as a lobbyist;

102 (3) Serve on any other governmental board or commission;

103 (4) Be an officer of any political party or political organization;

104 (5) Permit the person's name to be used, or make contributions, in support
105 of or in opposition to any candidate or proposition;

106 (6) Participate in any way in any election campaign; except that a member
107 or employee of the commission shall retain the right to register and vote in any
108 election, to express the person's opinion privately on political subjects or
109 candidates, to participate in the activities of a civic, community, social, labor or
110 professional organization and to be a member of a political party.

111 10. Each member of the commission shall receive, as full compensation for
112 the member's services, the sum of one hundred dollars per day for each full day
113 actually spent on work of the commission, and the member's actual and necessary
114 expenses incurred in the performance of the member's official duties.

115 11. The commission shall appoint an executive director who shall serve
116 subject to the supervision of and at the pleasure of the commission[, but in no
117 event for more than six years]. The executive director shall be responsible for the
118 administrative operations of the commission and perform such other duties as
119 may be delegated or assigned to the director by law or by rule of the
120 commission. The executive director shall employ staff and retain such contract
121 services as the director deems necessary, within the limits authorized by
122 appropriations by the general assembly.

123 12. Beginning on January 1, 1993, all lobbyist registration and
124 expenditure reports filed pursuant to section 105.473, financial interest
125 statements filed pursuant to subdivision (1) of section 105.489, and campaign
126 finance disclosure reports filed other than with election authorities or local
127 election authorities as provided by section 130.026, RSMo, shall be filed with the

128 commission.

129 13. Within sixty days of the initial meeting of the first commission
130 appointed, the commission shall obtain from the clerk of the supreme court or the
131 state courts administrator a list of retired appellate and circuit court judges who
132 did not leave the judiciary as a result of being defeated in an election. The
133 executive director shall determine those judges who indicate their desire to serve
134 as special investigators and to investigate any and all complaints referred to
135 them by the commission. The executive director shall maintain an updated list
136 of those judges qualified and available for appointment to serve as special
137 investigators. Such list shall be updated at least annually. The commission shall
138 refer complaints to such special investigators on that list on a rotating schedule
139 which ensures a random assignment of each special investigator. Each special
140 investigator shall receive only one unrelated investigation at a time and shall not
141 be assigned to a second or subsequent investigation until all other eligible
142 investigators on the list have been assigned to an investigation. In the event that
143 no special investigator is qualified or available to conduct a particular
144 investigation, the commission may appoint a special investigator to conduct such
145 particular investigation.

146 14. The commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities
147 relevant to the impartial and effective enforcement of sections 105.450 to 105.496
148 and chapter 130, RSMo, as provided in sections 105.955 to 105.963:

149 (1) Receive and review complaints regarding alleged violation of sections
150 105.450 to 105.496 and chapter 130, RSMo, conduct initial reviews and
151 investigations regarding such complaints as provided herein; refer complaints to
152 appropriate prosecuting authorities and appropriate disciplinary authorities along
153 with recommendations for sanctions; and initiate judicial proceedings as allowed
154 by sections 105.955 to 105.963;

155 (2) Review and audit any reports and statements required by the
156 campaign finance disclosure laws contained in chapter 130, RSMo, and financial
157 interest disclosure laws or lobbyist registration and reporting laws as provided
158 by sections 105.470 to 105.492, for timeliness, accuracy and completeness of
159 content as provided in sections 105.955 to 105.963;

160 (3) Develop appropriate systems to file and maintain an index of all such
161 reports and statements to facilitate public access to such information, except as
162 may be limited by confidentiality requirements otherwise provided by law,
163 including cross-checking of information contained in such statements and

164 reports. The commission may enter into contracts with the appropriate filing
165 officers to effectuate such system. Such filing officers shall cooperate as
166 necessary with the commission as reasonable and necessary to effectuate such
167 purposes;

168 (4) Provide information and assistance to lobbyists, elected and appointed
169 officials, and employees of the state and political subdivisions in carrying out the
170 provisions of sections 105.450 to 105.496 and chapter 130, RSMo;

171 (5) Make recommendations to the governor and general assembly or any
172 state agency on the need for further legislation with respect to the ethical conduct
173 of public officials and employees and to advise state and local government in the
174 development of local government codes of ethics and methods of disclosing
175 conflicts of interest as the commission may deem appropriate to promote high
176 ethical standards among all elected and appointed officials or employees of the
177 state or any political subdivision thereof and lobbyists;

178 (6) Render advisory opinions as provided by this section;

179 (7) Promulgate rules relating to the provisions of sections 105.955 to
180 105.963 and chapter 130, RSMo. All rules and regulations issued by the
181 commission shall be prospective only in operation;

182 (8) Request and receive from the officials and entities identified in
183 subdivision (6) of section 105.450 designations of decision-making public servants.

184 15. In connection with such powers provided by sections 105.955 to
185 105.963 and chapter 130, RSMo, the commission may:

186 (1) Subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance and
187 testimony. Subpoenas shall be served and enforced in the same manner provided
188 by section 536.077, RSMo;

189 (2) Administer oaths and affirmations;

190 (3) Take evidence and require by subpoena duces tecum the production of
191 books, papers, and other records relating to any matter being investigated or to
192 the performance of the commission's duties or exercise of its powers. Subpoenas
193 duces tecum shall be served and enforced in the same manner provided by section
194 536.077, RSMo;

195 (4) Employ such personnel, including legal counsel, and contract for
196 services including legal counsel, within the limits of its appropriation, as it deems
197 necessary provided such legal counsel, either employed or contracted, represents
198 the Missouri ethics commission before any state agency or before the courts at the
199 request of the Missouri ethics commission. Nothing in this section shall limit the

200 authority of the Missouri ethics commission as provided for in subsection 2 of
201 section 105.961; and

202 (5) Obtain information from any department, division or agency of the
203 state or any political subdivision reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery
204 of evidence which will reasonably assist the commission in carrying out the duties
205 prescribed in sections 105.955 to 105.963 and chapter 130, RSMo.

206 16. (1) Upon written request for an advisory opinion received by the
207 commission, and if the commission determines that the person requesting the
208 opinion would be directly affected by the application of law to the facts presented
209 by the requesting person, the commission shall issue a written opinion advising
210 the person who made the request, in response to the person's particular request,
211 regarding any issue that the commission can receive a complaint on pursuant to
212 section 105.957. The commission may decline to issue a written opinion by a vote
213 of four members and shall provide to the requesting person the reason for the
214 refusal in writing. The commission shall give an approximate time frame as to
215 when the written opinion shall be issued. Such advisory opinions shall be issued
216 no later than ninety days from the date of receipt by the commission. Such
217 requests and advisory opinions, deleting the name and identity of the requesting
218 person, shall be compiled and published by the commission on at least an annual
219 basis. Advisory opinions issued by the commission shall be maintained and made
220 available for public inspection and copying at the office of the commission during
221 normal business hours. Any advisory opinion or portion of an advisory opinion
222 rendered pursuant to this subsection shall be withdrawn by the commission if,
223 after hearing thereon, the joint committee on administrative rules finds that such
224 advisory opinion is beyond or contrary to the statutory authority of the
225 commission or is inconsistent with the legislative intent of any law enacted by the
226 general assembly, and after the general assembly, by concurrent resolution, votes
227 to adopt the findings and conclusions of the joint committee on administrative
228 rules. Any such concurrent resolution adopted by the general assembly shall be
229 published at length by the commission in its publication of advisory opinions of
230 the commission next following the adoption of such resolution, and a copy of such
231 concurrent resolution shall be maintained by the commission, along with the
232 withdrawn advisory opinion, in its public file of advisory opinions. The
233 commission shall also send a copy of such resolution to the person who originally
234 requested the withdrawn advisory opinion. Any advisory opinion issued by the
235 ethics commission shall act as legal direction to any person requesting such

236 opinion and no person shall be liable for relying on the opinion and it shall act
237 as a defense of justification against prosecution. An advisory opinion of the
238 commission shall not be withdrawn unless:

- 239 (a) The authorizing statute is declared unconstitutional;
240 (b) The opinion goes beyond the power authorized by statute; or
241 (c) The authorizing statute is changed to invalidate the opinion.
- 242 (2) Upon request, the attorney general shall give the attorney general's
243 opinion, without fee, to the commission, any elected official of the state or any
244 political subdivision, any member of the general assembly, or any director of any
245 department, division or agency of the state, upon any question of law regarding
246 the effect or application of sections 105.450 to 105.496, or chapter 130,
247 RSMo. Such opinion need be in writing only upon request of such official,
248 member or director, and in any event shall be rendered within sixty days that
249 such request is delivered to the attorney general.

250 17. The state auditor and the state auditor's duly authorized employees
251 who have taken the oath of confidentiality required by section 29.070, RSMo, may
252 audit the commission and in connection therewith may inspect materials relating
253 to the functions of the commission. Such audit shall include a determination of
254 whether appropriations were spent within the intent of the general assembly, but
255 shall not extend to review of any file or document pertaining to any particular
256 investigation, audit or review by the commission, an investigator or any staff or
257 person employed by the commission or under the supervision of the commission
258 or an investigator. The state auditor and any employee of the state auditor shall
259 not disclose the identity of any person who is or was the subject of an
260 investigation by the commission and whose identity is not public information as
261 provided by law.

262 18. From time to time but no more frequently than annually the
263 commission may request the officials and entities described in subdivision (6) of
264 section 105.450 to identify for the commission in writing those persons associated
265 with such office or entity which such office or entity has designated as a
266 decision-making public servant. Each office or entity delineated in subdivision
267 (6) of section 105.450 receiving such a request shall identify those so designated
268 within thirty days of the commission's request.

Section B. Because of the need to preserve the efficient administration of
2 the duties of the Ethics Commission, section A of this act is deemed necessary for
3 the immediate preservation of the public health, welfare, peace and safety, and

4 is hereby declared to be an emergency act within the meaning of the constitution,
5 and section A of this act shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and
6 approval.

✓

Unofficial

Bill

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