

**First Regular Session  
Sixty-sixth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**PREAMENDED**

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee  
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 07-0889.01 Bob Lackner

**SENATE BILL 07-210**

---

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**McElhany and Groff,**

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Marshall and May M.,**

---

**Senate Committees**

State, Veterans & Military Affairs  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

State, Veterans, & Military Affairs  
Appropriations

---

**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS**  
102             **COMMISSION AS REQUIRED BY ARTICLE XXIX OF THE STATE**  
103             **CONSTITUTION, AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION THEREFOR.**

---

**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not necessarily reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted.)*

Implements article XXIX of the state constitution, concerning ethics in government (article XXIX), enacted by the voters at the 2006 general election, in the following respects:

Establishes the independent ethics commission (commission) in the office of administrative courts in the department of personnel. Specifies requirements pertaining

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

SENATE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 2, 2007

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
March 30, 2007

to the appointment and terms of commission members, the reimbursement of expenses incurred by commission members, and the powers and duties of the commission.

Requires 2 members of the commission to have been continuously affiliated with the democratic party for at least 2 years prior to their appointment to the commission, 2 members of the commission to have been continuously affiliated with the republican party for at least 2 years prior to appointment to the commission, and the 5th and final member of the commission to have been continuously unaffiliated with any political party for at least 2 years prior to appointment to the commission. Specifies that not more than one member of the commission shall have been continuously unaffiliated with any political party for at least 2 years prior to appointment to the commission.

Requires of the 4 members appointed to the commission by the senate, house of representatives, governor, and chief justice to be appointed by the applicable appointing authority from among a list of 12 names jointly submitted by the president and minority leader of the senate and the speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives. Requires the president and minority leader of the senate and the speaker and minority leader of the house of representatives to each contribute 3 names to the list of 12 names. Specifies that each of the 3 names submitted by the president, speaker, and minority leaders shall be of persons affiliated with the same political party as the president, speaker, and minority leaders, as applicable.

Requires the commission to prepare a response to a request for an advisory opinion as to whether a particular action satisfies the requirements of article XXIX not more than a specified period after the request is made to the commission. Where the commission fails to prepare a response to such a request within the period required by the act, the action that is the subject of the request shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of article XXIX.

Requires the commission to adopt reasonable rules as may be necessary for the purpose of administering and enforcing the provisions of article XXIX and any other standards of conduct and reporting requirements as provided by law. Requires any such rules to be promulgated in conformity with the "State Administrative Procedure Act".

Authorizes the commission to employ staff.

Authorizes any member of the commission to issue a

subpoena requiring the appearance of a witness or the production of documents; except that, in such cases, specifies that the member shall be liable for payment of reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred by any party in defending against a complaint resulting in the issuance of the subpoena that was ultimately found to be without merit. Where all of the members of the commission approve a motion to issue a subpoena requiring the appearance of a witness or the production of documents, specifies that no such liability shall attach to the commission or to any of its individual members in connection with issuance of the subpoena, regardless of whether or not the complaint is found to be without merit.

Defines terms. Makes an appropriation.

---

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** Title 24, Colorado Revised Statutes, is amended BY  
3 THE ADDITION OF A NEW ARTICLE to read:

4 **ARTICLE 18.5**

5 **Independent Ethics Commission**

6 **24-18.5-101. Independent ethics commission - establishment**  
7 **- membership - subpoena power - definitions.** (1) AS USED IN THIS  
8 ARTICLE, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE REQUIRES:

9 (a) "ARTICLE XXIX" MEANS ARTICLE XXIX OF THE STATE  
10 CONSTITUTION APPROVED BY THE VOTERS AT THE 2006 GENERAL  
11 ELECTION.

12 (b) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION  
13 CREATED IN SECTION 5 (1) OF ARTICLE XXIX.

14 (2) (a) THE INDEPENDENT ETHICS COMMISSION IS HEREBY  
15 ESTABLISHED IN THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE COURTS IN THE  
16 DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL CREATED IN SECTION 24-30-1001. THE  
17 COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF FIVE MEMBERS. THE APPOINTING

1 AUTHORITIES FOR THE COMMISSION MEMBERS, THE ORDER OF  
2 APPOINTMENT OF SUCH MEMBERS, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS PERTAINING  
3 TO COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP SHALL BE AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 5 (2) (a)  
4 OF ARTICLE XXIX. SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (b)  
5 OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE SENATE  
6 PURSUANT TO SECTION 5 (2) (a) (I) OF ARTICLE XXIX SHALL BE  
7 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE WITH THE APPROVAL OF  
8 TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE SENATE. SUBJECT TO  
9 THE REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE  
10 MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PURSUANT TO  
11 SECTION 5 (2) (a) (II) OF ARTICLE XXIX SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE  
12 SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE APPROVAL OF  
13 TWO-THIRDS OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF  
14 REPRESENTATIVES. THE MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE HOUSE OF  
15 REPRESENTATIVES PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (a) SHALL NOT BE  
16 AFFILIATED WITH THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS THE PERSON APPOINTED  
17 BY THE SENATE.

18 (b) IN CONNECTION WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION  
19 MEMBERS, THE MAJOR POLITICAL PARTIES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1-1-104  
20 (22), C.R.S., SHALL HAVE EQUAL NUMBERS OF MEMBERS APPOINTED TO  
21 THE COMMISSION.

22 (c) THE COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED TO  
23 FOUR-YEAR TERMS; EXCEPT THAT THE FIRST MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE  
24 SENATE AND THE FIRST MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR SHALL  
25 INITIALLY SERVE TWO-YEAR TERMS. APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION  
26 SHALL BE MADE NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2007, AND THE INITIAL TERMS OF  
27 COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL COMMENCE JULY 1, 2007.

1           (3) COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT  
2 COMPENSATION; EXCEPT THAT COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL BE  
3 REIMBURSED FOR THE ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES THAT THEY  
4 INCUR IN CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS  
5 COMMISSION MEMBERS.

6           (4) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5 OF  
7 ARTICLE XXIX , THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE  
8 AS FOLLOWS:

9           (a) TO HEAR COMPLAINTS, ISSUE FINDINGS, AND ASSESS PENALTIES  
10 ON ETHICS ISSUES ARISING UNDER ARTICLE XXIX AND OTHER STANDARDS  
11 OF CONDUCT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED BY LAW; AND

12           (b) (I) TO ISSUE ADVISORY OPINIONS AND LETTER RULINGS ON  
13 ETHICS ISSUES ARISING UNDER ARTICLE XXIX AND OTHER STANDARDS OF  
14 CONDUCT AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

15           (II) THE COMMISSION SHALL PREPARE A RESPONSE TO A REQUEST  
16 FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION FROM A PUBLIC OFFICER, MEMBER OF THE  
17 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, OR GOVERNMENT  
18 EMPLOYEE AS TO WHETHER PARTICULAR ACTION BY SUCH OFFICER,  
19 MEMBER, OFFICIAL, OR EMPLOYEE SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
20 ARTICLE XXIX NOT MORE THAN TWENTY BUSINESS DAYS AFTER THE  
21 REQUEST IS MADE TO THE COMMISSION.

22           (III) ANY PERSON WHO IS NOT A PUBLIC OFFICER, MEMBER OF THE  
23 GENERAL ASSEMBLY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, OR GOVERNMENT  
24 EMPLOYEE MAY SUBMIT A REQUEST TO THE COMMISSION FOR A LETTER  
25 RULING CONCERNING WHETHER POTENTIAL CONDUCT OF THE PERSON  
26 MAKING THE REQUEST SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE XXIX.  
27 IN SUCH CASE, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE A RESPONSE TO THE REQUEST

1 AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE.

2 (IV) EACH ADVISORY OPINION OR LETTER RULING, AS APPLICABLE,  
3 ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION SHALL BE A PUBLIC DOCUMENT AND SHALL BE  
4 PROMPTLY POSTED ON A WEBSITE THAT SHALL BE MAINTAINED BY THE  
5 COMMISSION; EXCEPT THAT, IN THE CASE OF A LETTER RULING, THE  
6 COMMISSION SHALL REDACT THE NAME OF THE PERSON REQUESTING THE  
7 RULING OR OTHER IDENTIFYING INFORMATION BEFORE IT IS POSTED ON THE  
8 WEBSITE.

9 (5) (a) THE COMMISSION SHALL DISMISS AS FRIVOLOUS ANY  
10 COMPLAINT FILED UNDER ARTICLE XXIX THAT FAILS TO ALLEGE THAT A  
11 PUBLIC OFFICER, MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, LOCAL  
12 GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, OR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE HAS ACCEPTED OR  
13 RECEIVED ANY GIFT OR OTHER THING OF VALUE FOR PRIVATE GAIN OR  
14 PERSONAL FINANCIAL GAIN.

15 (b) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (5):

16 (I) "OFFICIAL ACT" SHALL HAVE THE SAME MEANING AS SET FORTH  
17 IN SECTION 24-18-102 (7).

18 (II) "PRIVATE GAIN" OR "PERSONAL FINANCIAL GAIN" MEANS ANY  
19 MONEY, FORBEARANCE, FORGIVENESS OF INDEBTEDNESS, GIFT, OR OTHER  
20 THING OF VALUE GIVEN OR OFFERED BY A PERSON SEEKING TO INFLUENCE  
21 AN OFFICIAL ACT THAT IS PERFORMED IN THE COURSE AND SCOPE OF THE  
22 PUBLIC DUTIES OF A PUBLIC OFFICER, MEMBER OF THE GENERAL  
23 ASSEMBLY, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, OR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.

24 (6) PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5 (1) OF ARTICLE  
25 XXIX, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REASONABLE RULES AS MAY BE  
26 NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING AND ENFORCING THE  
27 PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XXIX AND ANY OTHER STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

1 AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED BY LAW. ANY RULES SHALL  
2 BE PROMULGATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE  
3 4 OF THIS TITLE.

4 (7) SUBJECT TO AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, THE COMMISSION  
5 MAY EMPLOY SUCH STAFF AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY TO ENABLE IT TO  
6 CARRY OUT ITS FUNCTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
7 THIS ARTICLE AND ARTICLE XXIX.

8 (7) NO SUBPOENA REQUIRING THE ATTENDANCE OF A WITNESS OR  
9 THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS SHALL BE ISSUED BY THE COMMISSION  
10 UNLESS A MOTION TO ISSUE ANY SUCH SUBPOENA HAS BEEN MADE BY ONE  
11 MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION AND APPROVED BY NO FEWER THAN FOUR  
12 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. \_\_\_

13 (8) ANY FINAL ACTION OF THE COMMISSION CONCERNING A  
14 COMPLAINT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO JUDICIAL REVIEW BY THE DISTRICT  
15 COURT FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER.

16 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** (1) In addition to any other  
17 appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the  
18 general fund not otherwise appropriated, to the department of personnel  
19 and administration, executive office, for the provision of legal services to  
20 the division of administrative courts, for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
21 2007, the sum of one hundred twenty-one thousand nine hundred  
22 eighty-six dollars (\$121,986), or so much thereof as may be necessary, for  
23 the implementation of this act.

24 (2) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby  
25 appropriated, out of any moneys in the general fund not otherwise  
26 appropriated, to the department of personnel and administration, division  
27 of administrative courts, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, the

1 sum of ninety-eight thousand ten dollars (\$98,010) and 1.8 FTE, or so  
2 much thereof as may be necessary, for the implementation of this act.

3 (3) In addition to any other appropriation, there is hereby  
4 appropriated, to the department of law, for the fiscal year beginning July  
5 1, 2007, the sum of one hundred twenty-one thousand nine hundred  
6 eighty-six dollars (\$121,986) and 0.9 FTE, or so much thereof as may be  
7 necessary, for the provision of legal services to the department of  
8 personnel and administration, division of administrative courts, related to  
9 the implementation of this act. Said sum shall be from cash funds exempt  
10 received from the department of personnel and administration, executive  
11 office, out of the appropriation made in subsection (1) of this section.

12 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
14 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.