

First Regular Session
Sixty-sixth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 07-0889.01 Bob Lackner

SENATE BILL 07-210

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

McElhany and Groff,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

(None),

Senate Committees
State, Veterans & Military Affairs

House Committees

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.

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 A
8 MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE SENATE. SUBJECT TO THE
9 REQUIREMENTS OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (2), THE MEMBER
10 APPOINTED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PURSUANT TO SECTION 5
11 (2) (a) (II) OF ARTICLE XXIX SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF
12 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WITH THE APPROVAL OF A MAJORITY OF
13 THE MEMBERS ELECTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

14 (b) (I) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 5 (2)
15 (b) AND (c) OF ARTICLE XXIX, TWO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL
16 HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY AFFILIATED WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR
17 AT LEAST TWO YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION, TWO
18 MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY
19 AFFILIATED WITH THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS PRIOR
20 TO APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION, AND THE FIFTH AND FINAL MEMBER
21 OF THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY UNAFFILIATED
22 WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS PRIOR TO
23 APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION. NOT MORE THAN ONE MEMBER OF
24 THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE BEEN CONTINUOUSLY UNAFFILIATED WITH
25 ANY POLITICAL PARTY FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS PRIOR TO APPOINTMENT
26 TO THE COMMISSION.

27 (II) EACH OF THE FOUR MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION

1 BY THE SENATE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, GOVERNOR, AND CHIEF
2 JUSTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 5 (2) (a) OF ARTICLE XXIX SHALL BE
3 APPOINTED BY THE APPLICABLE APPOINTING AUTHORITY FROM AMONG A
4 LIST OF TWELVE NAMES JOINTLY SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND
5 MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER AND MINORITY
6 LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE
7 REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (II), THE PRESIDENT AND
8 MINORITY LEADER OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER AND MINORITY
9 LEADER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES SHALL EACH CONTRIBUTE
10 THREE NAMES TO THE LIST OF TWELVE NAMES. EACH OF THE THREE
11 NAMES SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER, AND MINORITY LEADERS
12 SHALL BE OF PERSONS AFFILIATED WITH THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS
13 THE PRESIDENT, SPEAKER, AND MINORITY LEADERS, AS APPLICABLE.

14 (c) THE COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED TO
15 FOUR-YEAR TERMS; EXCEPT THAT THE FIRST MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE
16 SENATE AND THE FIRST MEMBER APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR SHALL
17 INITIALLY SERVE TWO-YEAR TERMS. APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION
18 SHALL BE MADE NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 2007, AND THE INITIAL TERMS OF
19 COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL COMMENCE JULY 1, 2007.

20 (3) COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL SERVE WITHOUT
21 COMPENSATION; EXCEPT THAT COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL BE
22 REIMBURSED FOR THE ACTUAL AND NECESSARY EXPENSES THAT THEY
23 INCUR IN CARRYING OUT THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES AS
24 COMMISSION MEMBERS.

25 (4) IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5 OF
26 ARTICLE XXIX, THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE
27 AS FOLLOWS:

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

4 (b) (I) TO ISSUE ADVISORY OPINIONS ON ETHICS ISSUES ARISING
5 UNDER ARTICLE XXIX AND OTHER STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND
6 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

7 (II) THE COMMISSION SHALL PREPARE A RESPONSE TO A REQUEST
8 FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION AS TO WHETHER A PARTICULAR ACTION
9 SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE XXIX NOT MORE THAN FIFTEEN
10 DAYS AFTER THE REQUEST IS MADE TO THE COMMISSION. WHERE THE
11 COMMISSION FAILS TO PREPARE A RESPONSE TO SUCH A REQUEST WITHIN
12 THE FIFTEEN-DAY PERIOD REQUIRED BY THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (II), THE
13 ACTION THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THE REQUEST SHALL BE DEEMED TO
14 SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE XXIX.

15 (5) PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5 (1) OF ARTICLE
16 XXIX, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REASONABLE RULES AS MAY BE
17 NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADMINISTERING AND ENFORCING THE
18 PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE XXIX AND ANY OTHER STANDARDS OF CONDUCT
19 AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED BY LAW. ANY RULES SHALL
20 BE PROMULGATED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE
21 4 OF THIS TITLE.

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

26 (7) PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 5 (4) OF ARTICLE
27 XXIX, ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY ISSUE A SUBPOENA

1 REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A WITNESS OR THE PRODUCTION OF
2 DOCUMENTS; EXCEPT THAT, IN SUCH CASES THE MEMBER SHALL BE LIABLE
3 FOR PAYMENT OF REASONABLE ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS INCURRED BY
4 ANY PARTY IN DEFENDING AGAINST A COMPLAINT RESULTING IN THE
5 ISSUANCE OF THE SUBPOENA THAT WAS ULTIMATELY FOUND TO BE
6 WITHOUT MERIT. WHERE ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
7 APPROVE A MOTION TO ISSUE A SUBPOENA REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF
8 A WITNESS OR THE PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS, NO SUCH LIABILITY
9 SHALL ATTACH TO THE COMMISSION OR TO ANY OF ITS INDIVIDUAL
10 MEMBERS IN CONNECTION WITH ISSUANCE OF THE SUBPOENA, REGARDLESS
11 OF WHETHER OR NOT THE COMPLAINT IS FOUND TO BE WITHOUT MERIT.

12 **SECTION 2. Appropriation.** In addition to any other
13 appropriation, there is hereby appropriated, out of any moneys in the
14 general fund not otherwise appropriated, to the department of _____, for
15 the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2007, the sum of _____ dollars (\$) and
16 _____ FTE, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the
17 implementation of this act.

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