

HB 1007 -- Ethics Complaints

Sponsor: Cunningham (86)

This bill requires individuals filing complaints with the Missouri Ethics Commission alleging violations of lobbying requirements, financial disclosure statements, governmental agency regulations, laws, and various codes of conduct to provide his or her name, address, and telephone number.

All information in the complaint except for the complainant's name, address, and telephone number will be a closed record. Disclosure of any closed information will result in a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 and a criminal penalty not to exceed one year in jail, a \$2,500 fine, or both. There are separate filing deadlines and disclosure rules for financial disclosure statements under Section 130.054, RSMo, but the same penalties for early disclosure apply. Full disclosure will be allowed after the commission has issued its ruling on the complaint. Anyone wishing to copy the disclosure report after it is available must provide photographic identification for the purpose of signature verification.

If the commission decides that a complaint was motivated by malice and is contrary to the law, the complainant may be assessed attorney fees, the costs of the commission's investigation, and a criminal penalty not to exceed one year in jail, a \$2,500 fine, or both.

Anyone charged with a violation by the commission after it acts on a complaint may appeal directly to the circuit court of Cole County.