

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2223

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE GREGORY.

6030H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To repeal section 105.955, RSMo, sections 105.957, 105.959, and 105.961 as enacted by senate bill no. 844, ninety-fifth general assembly, second regular session, sections 105.957 and 105.959 as enacted by house bill no. 1900, ninety-third general assembly, second regular session, and section 105.961 as enacted by senate bill no. 16, eighty-ninth general assembly, first regular session, and to enact in lieu thereof four new sections relating to the ethics commission.

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

Section A. Section 105.955, RSMo, sections 105.957, 105.959, and 105.961 as enacted
2 by senate bill no. 844, ninety-fifth general assembly, second regular session, sections 105.957
3 and 105.959 as enacted by house bill no. 1900, ninety-third general assembly, second regular
4 session, and section 105.961 as enacted by senate bill no. 16, eighty-ninth general assembly, first
5 regular session, are repealed and four new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as
6 sections 105.955, 105.957, 105.959, and 105.961, to read as follows:

105.955. 1. A bipartisan "Missouri Ethics Commission", composed of six members, is
2 hereby established. The commission shall be assigned to the office of administration with
3 supervision by the office of administration only for budgeting and reporting as provided by
4 subdivisions (4) and (5) of subsection 6 of section 1 of the Reorganization Act of 1974.
5 Supervision by the office of administration shall not extend to matters relating to policies,
6 regulative functions or appeals from decisions of the commission, and the commissioner of
7 administration, any employee of the office of administration, or the governor, either directly or
8 indirectly, shall not participate or interfere with the activities of the commission in any manner
9 not specifically provided by law and shall not in any manner interfere with the budget request

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

10 of or withhold any moneys appropriated to the commission by the general assembly. All
11 members of the commission shall be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of
12 the senate from lists submitted pursuant to this section. Each congressional district committee
13 of the political parties having the two highest number of votes cast for their candidate for
14 governor at the last gubernatorial election shall submit two names of eligible nominees for
15 membership on the commission to the governor, and the governor shall select six members from
16 such nominees to serve on the commission.

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

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

45 4. Vacancies or expired terms on the commission shall be filled in the same manner as
46 the original appointment was made, except as provided in this subsection. Within thirty days of
47 the vacancy or ninety days before the expiration of the term, the names of two eligible nominees
48 for membership on the commission shall be submitted to the governor by the congressional
49 district committees of the political party or parties of the vacating member or members, from the
50 even- or odd-numbered congressional districts, based on the residence of the vacating member
51 or members, other than from the congressional district committees from districts then represented
52 on the commission and from the same congressional district party committee or committees
53 which originally appointed the member or members whose positions are vacated. Appointments
54 to fill vacancies or expired terms shall be made within forty-five days after the deadline for
55 submission of names by the congressional district committees, and shall be subject to the same
56 qualifications for appointment and eligibility as is provided in subsections 2 and 3 of this section.
57 Appointments to fill vacancies for unexpired terms shall be for the remainder of the unexpired
58 term of the member whom the appointee succeeds, and such appointees shall be eligible for
59 appointment to one full four-year term. If the congressional district committee does not submit
60 the required two nominees within the thirty days or if the congressional district committee does
61 not submit the two nominees within an additional thirty days after receiving notice from the
62 governor to submit the nominees, then the governor may appoint a person or persons who shall
63 be subject to the same qualifications for appointment and eligibility as provided in subsections
64 2 and 3 of this section.

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

74 6. The commission shall elect biennially one of its members as the chairman. The
75 chairman may not succeed himself or herself after two years. No member of the commission
76 shall succeed as chairman any member of the same political party as himself or herself. At least
77 four members are necessary to constitute a quorum, and at least four affirmative votes shall be
78 required for any action or recommendation of the commission.

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

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

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

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

86 (2) Be employed as a lobbyist;

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

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

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

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

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

100 11. The commission shall appoint an executive director who shall serve subject to the
101 supervision of and at the pleasure of the commission, but in no event for more than six years.
102 The executive director shall be responsible for the administrative operations of the commission
103 and perform such other duties as may be delegated or assigned to the director by law or by rule
104 of the commission. The executive director shall employ staff and retain such contract services
105 as the director deems necessary, within the limits authorized by appropriations by the general
106 assembly.

107 12. Beginning on January 1, 1993, all lobbyist registration and expenditure reports filed
108 pursuant to section 105.473, financial interest statements filed pursuant to subdivision (1) of
109 section 105.489, and campaign finance disclosure reports filed other than with election
110 authorities or local election authorities as provided by section 130.026 shall be filed with the
111 commission.

112 13. Within sixty days of the initial meeting of the first commission appointed, the
113 commission shall obtain from the clerk of the supreme court or the state courts administrator a
114 list of retired appellate and circuit court judges who did not leave the judiciary as a result of
115 being defeated in an election. The executive director shall determine those judges who indicate
116 their desire to serve as special investigators and to investigate any and all complaints referred to

117 them by the commission. The executive director shall maintain an updated list of those judges
118 qualified and available for appointment to serve as special investigators. Such list shall be
119 updated at least annually. The commission shall refer complaints to such special investigators
120 on that list on a rotating schedule which ensures a random assignment of each special
121 investigator. Each special investigator shall receive only one unrelated investigation at a time
122 and shall not be assigned to a second or subsequent investigation until all other eligible
123 investigators on the list have been assigned to an investigation. In the event that no special
124 investigator is qualified or available to conduct a particular investigation, the commission may
125 appoint a special investigator to conduct such particular investigation.

126 14. The commission shall have the following duties and responsibilities relevant to the
127 impartial and effective enforcement of sections 105.450 to 105.496 ~~and~~ , chapter 130, **and**
128 **constitutional provisions relating to campaign finance**, as provided in sections 105.955 to
129 105.963:

130 (1) Receive and review complaints regarding alleged violation of sections 105.450 to
131 105.496 ~~and~~ , chapter 130, **and constitutional provisions relating to campaign finance**;
132 conduct initial reviews and investigations regarding such complaints as provided herein; refer
133 complaints to appropriate prosecuting authorities and appropriate disciplinary authorities along
134 with recommendations for sanctions; and initiate judicial proceedings as allowed by sections
135 105.955 to 105.963;

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

140 (3) Develop appropriate systems to file and maintain an index of all such reports and
141 statements to facilitate public access to such information, except as may be limited by
142 confidentiality requirements otherwise provided by law, including cross-checking of information
143 contained in such statements and reports. The commission may enter into contracts with the
144 appropriate filing officers to effectuate such system. Such filing officers shall cooperate as
145 necessary with the commission as reasonable and necessary to effectuate such purposes;

146 (4) Provide information and assistance to lobbyists, elected and appointed officials, and
147 employees of the state and political subdivisions in carrying out the provisions of sections
148 105.450 to 105.496 and chapter 130;

149 (5) Make recommendations to the governor and general assembly or any state agency
150 on the need for further legislation with respect to the ethical conduct of public officials and
151 employees and to advise state and local government in the development of local government
152 codes of ethics and methods of disclosing conflicts of interest as the commission may deem

153 appropriate to promote high ethical standards among all elected and appointed officials or
154 employees of the state or any political subdivision thereof and lobbyists;

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

156 (7) Promulgate rules relating to the provisions of sections 105.955 to 105.963 ~~and~~ ,
157 chapter 130, **and constitutional provisions relating to campaign finance**. All rules and
158 regulations issued by the commission shall be prospective only in operation;

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

161 15. In connection with such powers provided by sections 105.955 to 105.963 and chapter
162 130, the commission may:

163 (1) Subpoena witnesses and compel their attendance and testimony. Subpoenas shall be
164 served and enforced in the same manner provided by section 536.077;

165 (2) Administer oaths and affirmations;

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

170 (4) Employ such personnel, including legal counsel, and contract for services including
171 legal counsel, within the limits of its appropriation, as it deems necessary provided such legal
172 counsel, either employed or contracted, represents the Missouri ethics commission before any
173 state agency or before the courts at the request of the Missouri ethics commission. Nothing in
174 this section shall limit the authority of the Missouri ethics commission as provided for in
175 subsection 2 of section 105.961; and

176 (5) Obtain information from any department, division or agency of the state or any
177 political subdivision reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of evidence which will
178 reasonably assist the commission in carrying out the duties prescribed in sections 105.955 to
179 105.963 and chapter 130.

180 16. (1) Upon written request for an advisory opinion received by the commission, and
181 if the commission determines that the person requesting the opinion would be directly affected
182 by the application of law to the facts presented by the requesting person, the commission shall
183 issue a written opinion advising the person who made the request, in response to the person's
184 particular request, regarding any issue that the commission can receive a complaint on pursuant
185 to section 105.957. The commission may decline to issue a written opinion by a vote of four
186 members and shall provide to the requesting person the reason for the refusal in writing. The
187 commission shall give an approximate time frame as to when the written opinion shall be issued.
188 Such advisory opinions shall be issued no later than ninety days from the date of receipt by the

189 commission. Such requests and advisory opinions, deleting the name and identity of the
190 requesting person, shall be compiled and published by the commission on at least an annual
191 basis. Advisory opinions issued by the commission shall be maintained and made available for
192 public inspection and copying at the office of the commission during normal business hours.
193 Any advisory opinion or portion of an advisory opinion rendered pursuant to this subsection shall
194 be withdrawn by the commission if, after hearing thereon, the joint committee on administrative
195 rules finds that such advisory opinion is beyond or contrary to the statutory authority of the
196 commission or is inconsistent with the legislative intent of any law enacted by the general
197 assembly, and after the general assembly, by concurrent resolution, votes to adopt the findings
198 and conclusions of the joint committee on administrative rules. Any such concurrent resolution
199 adopted by the general assembly shall be published at length by the commission in its publication
200 of advisory opinions of the commission next following the adoption of such resolution, and a
201 copy of such concurrent resolution shall be maintained by the commission, along with the
202 withdrawn advisory opinion, in its public file of advisory opinions. The commission shall also
203 send a copy of such resolution to the person who originally requested the withdrawn advisory
204 opinion. Any advisory opinion issued by the ethics commission shall act as legal direction to any
205 person requesting such opinion and no person shall be liable for relying on the opinion and it
206 shall act as a defense of justification against prosecution. An advisory opinion of the
207 commission shall not be withdrawn unless:

- 208 (a) The authorizing statute is declared unconstitutional;
- 209 (b) The opinion goes beyond the power authorized by statute; or
- 210 (c) The authorizing statute is changed to invalidate the opinion.

211 (2) Upon request, the attorney general shall give the attorney general's opinion, without
212 fee, to the commission, any elected official of the state or any political subdivision, any member
213 of the general assembly, or any director of any department, division or agency of the state, upon
214 any question of law regarding the effect or application of sections 105.450 to 105.496, or chapter
215 130. Such opinion need be in writing only upon request of such official, member or director, and
216 in any event shall be rendered within sixty days that such request is delivered to the attorney
217 general.

218 17. The state auditor and the state auditor's duly authorized employees who have taken
219 the oath of confidentiality required by section 29.070 may audit the commission and in
220 connection therewith may inspect materials relating to the functions of the commission. Such
221 audit shall include a determination of whether appropriations were spent within the intent of the
222 general assembly, but shall not extend to review of any file or document pertaining to any
223 particular investigation, audit or review by the commission, an investigator or any staff or person
224 employed by the commission or under the supervision of the commission or an investigator. The

225 state auditor and any employee of the state auditor shall not disclose the identity of any person
 226 who is or was the subject of an investigation by the commission and whose identity is not public
 227 information as provided by law.

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

~~[105.957. 1. The commission shall receive any complaints alleging violation of the provisions of:~~

~~2 (1) The requirements imposed on lobbyists by sections 105.470 to~~
~~3 105.478;~~

~~4 (2) The financial interest disclosure requirements contained in sections~~
~~5 105.483 to 105.492;~~

~~6 (3) The campaign finance disclosure requirements contained in chapter~~
~~7 130;~~

~~8 (4) Any code of conduct promulgated by any department, division or~~
~~9 agency of state government, or by state institutions of higher education, or by~~
~~10 executive order;~~

~~11 (5) The conflict of interest laws contained in sections 105.450 to 105.468~~
~~12 and section 171.181; and~~

~~13 (6) The provisions of the constitution or state statute or order, ordinance~~
~~14 or resolution of any political subdivision relating to the official conduct of~~
~~15 officials or employees of the state and political subdivisions.~~

~~16 2. Complaints filed with the commission shall be in writing and filed~~
~~17 only by a natural person. The complaint shall contain all facts known by the~~
~~18 complainant that have given rise to the complaint and the complaint shall be~~
~~19 sworn to, under penalty of perjury, by the complainant. No complaint shall be~~
~~20 investigated unless the complaint alleges facts which, if true, fall within the~~
~~21 jurisdiction of the commission. Within five days after receipt by the commission~~
~~22 of a complaint which is properly signed and notarized, and which alleges facts~~
~~23 which, if true, fall within the jurisdiction of the commission, a copy of the~~
~~24 complaint, including the name of the complainant, shall be delivered to the~~
~~25 alleged violator.~~

~~26 3. No complaint shall be investigated which concerns alleged criminal~~
~~27 conduct which allegedly occurred previous to the period of time allowed by law~~
~~28 for criminal prosecution for such conduct. The commission may refuse to~~
~~29 investigate any conduct which is the subject of civil or criminal litigation. The~~
~~30 commission, its executive director or an investigator shall not investigate any~~
~~31 complaint concerning conduct which is not criminal in nature which occurred~~
~~32 more than two years prior to the date of the complaint. A complaint alleging~~
~~33~~

34 misconduct on the part of a candidate for public office, other than those alleging
 35 failure to file the appropriate financial interest statements or campaign finance
 36 disclosure reports, shall not be accepted by the commission within sixty days
 37 prior to the primary election at which such candidate is running for office, and
 38 until after the general election.

39 ~~4. If the commission finds that any complaint is frivolous in nature, the~~
 40 ~~commission shall dismiss the case. For purposes of this subsection, "frivolous"~~
 41 ~~shall mean a complaint clearly lacking any basis in fact or law. Any person who~~
 42 ~~submits a frivolous complaint shall be liable for actual and compensatory~~
 43 ~~damages to the alleged violator for holding the alleged violator before the public~~
 44 ~~in a false light. If the commission finds that a complaint is frivolous, the~~
 45 ~~commission shall issue a public report to the complainant and the alleged violator~~
 46 ~~stating with particularity its reasons for dismissal of the complaint. Upon such~~
 47 ~~issuance, the complaint and all materials relating to the complaint shall be a~~
 48 ~~public record as defined in chapter 610.~~

49 ~~5. Complaints which allege violations as described in this section which~~
 50 ~~are filed with the commission shall be handled as provided by section 105.961.]~~
 51

105.957. 1. The commission shall receive any complaints alleging violation of the
 2 provisions of:

- 3 (1) The requirements imposed on lobbyists by sections 105.470 to 105.478;
- 4 (2) The financial interest disclosure requirements contained in sections 105.483 to
 5 105.492;
- 6 (3) The campaign finance disclosure requirements contained in chapter 130;
- 7 (4) **The requirements set forth in the Constitution of Missouri related to campaign**
 8 **finance;**
- 9 (5) Any code of conduct promulgated by any department, division or agency of state
 10 government, or by state institutions of higher education, or by executive order;
- 11 ~~(5)~~ (6) The conflict of interest laws contained in sections 105.450 to 105.468 and
 12 section 171.181; and
- 13 ~~(6)~~ (7) The provisions of the constitution or state statute or order, ordinance or
 14 resolution of any political subdivision relating to the official conduct of officials or employees
 15 of the state and political subdivisions.

16 2. Complaints filed with the commission shall be in writing and filed only by a natural
 17 person. The complaint shall contain all facts known by the complainant that have given rise to
 18 the complaint and the complaint shall be sworn to, under penalty of perjury, by the complainant.
 19 No complaint shall be investigated unless the complaint alleges facts which, if true, fall within
 20 the jurisdiction of the commission. Within five days after receipt of a complaint by the

21 commission, a copy of the complaint, including the name of the complainant, shall be delivered
22 to the alleged violator.

23 3. No complaint shall be investigated which concerns alleged criminal conduct which
24 allegedly occurred previous to the period of time allowed by law for criminal prosecution for
25 such conduct. The commission may refuse to investigate any conduct which is the subject of
26 civil or criminal litigation. The commission, its executive director or an investigator shall not
27 investigate any complaint concerning conduct which is not criminal in nature which occurred
28 more than two years prior to the date of the complaint. A complaint alleging misconduct on the
29 part of a candidate for public office, other than those alleging failure to file the appropriate
30 financial interest statements or campaign finance disclosure reports, shall not be accepted by the
31 commission within sixty days prior to the primary election at which such candidate is running
32 for office, and until after the general election.

33 4. If the commission finds that any complaint is frivolous in nature or finds no probable
34 cause to believe that there has been a violation, the commission shall dismiss the case. For
35 purposes of this subsection, "frivolous" shall mean a complaint clearly lacking any basis in fact
36 or law. Any person who submits a frivolous complaint shall be liable for actual and
37 compensatory damages to the alleged violator for holding the alleged violator before the public
38 in a false light. If the commission finds that a complaint is frivolous or that there is not probable
39 cause to believe there has been a violation, the commission shall issue a public report to the
40 complainant and the alleged violator stating with particularity its reasons for dismissal of the
41 complaint. Upon such issuance, the complaint and all materials relating to the complaint shall
42 be a public record as defined in chapter 610.

43 5. Complaints which allege violations as described in this section which are filed with
44 the commission shall be handled as provided by section 105.961.

2 ~~[105.959. 1. The executive director of the commission, under the~~
3 ~~supervision of the commission, shall review reports and statements filed with the~~
4 ~~commission or other appropriate officers pursuant to sections 105.470, 105.483~~
5 ~~to 105.492, and chapter 130 for completeness, accuracy and timeliness of filing~~
6 ~~of the reports or statements and any records relating to the reports or statements,~~
7 ~~and upon review, if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has~~
8 ~~occurred, shall conduct an investigation of such reports, statements, and records~~
9 ~~and assign a special investigator following the provisions of subsection 1 of~~
10 ~~section 105.961.~~

11 ~~2. (1) If there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has~~
12 ~~occurred and after the commission unanimously votes to proceed with all six~~
13 ~~members voting, the executive director shall, without receipt of a complaint,~~
14 ~~conduct an independent investigation of any potential violations of the provisions~~
~~of:~~

- 15 ~~_____ (a) The requirements imposed on lobbyists by sections 105.470 to~~
16 ~~105.478;~~
- 17 ~~_____ (b) The financial interest disclosure requirements contained in sections~~
18 ~~105.483 to 105.492;~~
- 19 ~~_____ (c) The campaign finance disclosure requirements contained in chapter~~
20 ~~130;~~
- 21 ~~_____ (d) Any code of conduct promulgated by any department, division, or~~
22 ~~agency of state government, or by state institutions of higher education, or by~~
23 ~~executive order;~~
- 24 ~~_____ (e) The conflict of interest laws contained in sections 105.450 to 105.468~~
25 ~~and section 171.181; and~~
- 26 ~~_____ (f) The provisions of the constitution or state statute or order, ordinance,~~
27 ~~or resolution of any political subdivision relating to the official conduct of~~
28 ~~officials or employees of the state and political subdivisions.~~
- 29 ~~_____ (2) If an investigation conducted under this subsection fails to establish~~
30 ~~reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, the investigation shall~~
31 ~~be terminated and the person who had been under investigation shall be notified~~
32 ~~of the reasons for the disposition of the complaint.~~
- 33 ~~_____ 3. Upon findings of the appropriate filing officer which are reported to~~
34 ~~the commission in accordance with the provisions of section 130.056, the~~
35 ~~executive director shall investigate disclosure reports, statements and records~~
36 ~~pertaining to such findings within a reasonable time after receipt of the reports~~
37 ~~from the appropriate filing officer.~~
- 38 ~~_____ 4. The commission may make such investigations and inspections within~~
39 ~~or outside of this state as are necessary to determine compliance.~~
- 40 ~~_____ 5. The commission shall notify the person under investigation under this~~
41 ~~section, by registered mail, within five days of the decision to conduct such~~
42 ~~investigation and assign a special investigator following the provisions of~~
43 ~~subsection 1 of section 105.961.~~
- 44 ~~_____ 6. After completion of an investigation, the executive director shall~~
45 ~~provide a detailed report of such investigation to the commission. Upon~~
46 ~~determination that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person has~~
47 ~~violated the requirements of sections 105.470, 105.483 to 105.492, or chapter~~
48 ~~130, by a vote of four members of the commission, the commission may refer the~~
49 ~~report with the recommendations of the commission to the appropriate~~
50 ~~prosecuting authority together with the details of the investigation by the~~
51 ~~commission as is provided in subsection 2 of section 105.961.~~
- 52 ~~_____ 7. All investigations by the executive director of an alleged violation~~
53 ~~shall be strictly confidential with the exception of notification of the commission~~
54 ~~and the complainant and the person under investigation. Revealing any such~~
55 ~~confidential investigation information shall be cause for removal or dismissal of~~
56 ~~the executive director or a commission member or employee.]~~
57

105.959. 1. The executive director of the commission, under the supervision of the
2 commission, shall review reports and statements filed with the commission or other appropriate
3 officers pursuant to sections 105.470, 105.483 to 105.492, and chapter 130 for completeness,
4 accuracy and timeliness of filing of the reports or statements, and upon review, if there are
5 reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, shall conduct an audit of such reports
6 and statements. All investigations by the executive director of an alleged violation shall be
7 strictly confidential with the exception of notification of the commission and the complainant
8 or the person under investigation. All investigations by the executive director shall be limited
9 to the information contained in the reports or statements. The commission shall notify the
10 complainant or the person under investigation, by registered mail, within five days of the
11 decision to conduct such investigation. Revealing any such confidential investigation
12 information shall be cause for removal or dismissal of the executive director or a commission
13 member or employee.

14 2. Upon findings of the appropriate filing officer which are reported to the commission
15 in accordance with the provisions of section 130.056, the executive director shall audit disclosure
16 reports, statements and records pertaining to such findings within a reasonable time after receipt
17 of the reports from the appropriate filing officer.

18 3. Upon a sworn written complaint of any natural person filed with the commission
19 pursuant to section 105.957, the commission shall audit and investigate alleged violations.
20 Within sixty days after receipt of a sworn written complaint alleging a violation, the executive
21 director shall notify the complainant in writing of the action, if any, the executive director has
22 taken and plans to take on the complaint. If an investigation conducted pursuant to this
23 subsection fails to establish reasonable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, the
24 investigation shall be terminated and the complainant and the person who had been under
25 investigation shall be notified of the reasons for the disposition of the complaint.

26 4. The commission may make such investigations and inspections within or outside of
27 this state as are necessary to determine compliance.

28 5. If, during an audit or investigation, the commission determines that a formal
29 investigation is necessary, the commission shall assign the investigation to a special investigator
30 in the manner provided by subsection 1 of section 105.961.

31 6. After completion of an audit or investigation, the executive director shall provide a
32 detailed report of such audit or investigation to the commission. Upon determination that there
33 are reasonable grounds to believe that a person has violated the requirements of sections
34 105.470, 105.483 to 105.492, or chapter 130, **or the requirements set forth in the Constitution**
35 **of Missouri related to campaign finance**, by a vote of four members of the commission, the
36 commission may refer the report with the recommendations of the commission to the appropriate

37 prosecuting authority together with a copy of the audit and the details of the investigation by the
38 commission as is provided in subsection 2 of section 105.961.

2 ~~[105.961. 1. Upon receipt of a complaint as described by section 105.957~~
3 ~~or upon notification by the commission of an investigation under subsection 5 of~~
4 ~~section 105.959, the commission shall assign the complaint or investigation to~~
5 ~~a special investigator, who may be a commission employee, who shall investigate~~
6 ~~and determine the merits of the complaint or investigation. Within ten days of~~
7 ~~such assignment, the special investigator shall review such complaint and~~
8 ~~disclose, in writing, to the commission any conflict of interest which the special~~
9 ~~investigator has or might have with respect to the investigation and subject~~
10 ~~thereof. Within ninety days of receipt of the complaint from the commission, the~~
11 ~~special investigator shall submit the special investigator's report to the~~
12 ~~commission. The commission, after review of such report, shall determine:~~

13 ~~————— (1) That there is reasonable grounds for belief that a violation has~~
14 ~~occurred; or~~

15 ~~————— (2) That there are no reasonable grounds for belief that a violation exists~~
16 ~~and the complaint or investigation shall be dismissed; or~~

17 ~~————— (3) That additional time is necessary to complete the investigation, and~~
18 ~~the status and progress of the investigation to date. The commission, in its~~
19 ~~discretion, may allow the investigation to proceed for no more than two~~
20 ~~additional successive periods of ninety days each, pending reports regarding the~~
21 ~~status and progress of the investigation at the end of each such period.—~~

22 ~~2. When the commission concludes, based on the report from the special~~
23 ~~investigator, or based on an investigation conducted pursuant to section 105.959,~~
24 ~~that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of any criminal law~~
25 ~~has occurred, and if the commission believes that criminal prosecution would be~~
26 ~~appropriate upon a vote of four members of the commission, the commission~~
27 ~~shall refer the report to the Missouri office of prosecution services, prosecutors~~
28 ~~coordinators training council established in section 56.760, which shall submit~~
29 ~~a panel of five attorneys for recommendation to the court having criminal~~
30 ~~jurisdiction, for appointment of an attorney to serve as a special prosecutor;~~
31 ~~except that, the attorney general of Missouri or any assistant attorney general~~
32 ~~shall not act as such special prosecutor. The court shall then appoint from such~~
33 ~~panel a special prosecutor pursuant to section 56.110 who shall have all the~~
34 ~~powers provided by section 56.130. The court shall allow a reasonable and~~
35 ~~necessary attorney's fee for the services of the special prosecutor. Such fee shall~~
36 ~~be assessed as costs if a case is filed, or ordered by the court if no case is filed,~~
37 ~~and paid together with all other costs in the proceeding by the state, in accordance~~
38 ~~with rules and regulations promulgated by the state courts administrator, subject~~
39 ~~to funds appropriated to the office of administration for such purposes. If the~~
40 ~~commission does not have sufficient funds to pay a special prosecutor, the~~
41 ~~commission shall refer the case to the prosecutor or prosecutors having criminal~~
~~jurisdiction. If the prosecutor having criminal jurisdiction is not able to prosecute~~

42 the case due to a conflict of interest, the court may appoint a special prosecutor,
43 paid from county funds, upon appropriation by the county or the attorney general
44 to investigate and, if appropriate, prosecute the case. The special prosecutor or
45 prosecutor shall commence an action based on the report by the filing of an
46 information or seeking an indictment within sixty days of the date of such
47 prosecutor's appointment, or shall file a written statement with the commission
48 explaining why criminal charges should not be sought. If the special prosecutor
49 or prosecutor fails to take either action required by this subsection, upon request
50 of the commission, a new special prosecutor, who may be the attorney general,
51 shall be appointed. The report may also be referred to the appropriate
52 disciplinary authority over the person who is the subject of the report.

53 ~~3. When the commission concludes, based on the report from the special~~
54 ~~investigator or based on an investigation conducted pursuant to section 105.959,~~
55 ~~that there are reasonable grounds to believe that a violation of any law has~~
56 ~~occurred which is not a violation of criminal law or that criminal prosecution is~~
57 ~~not appropriate, the commission shall conduct a hearing which shall be a closed~~
58 ~~meeting and not open to the public. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to~~
59 ~~the procedures provided by sections 536.063 to 536.090 and shall be considered~~
60 ~~to be a contested case for purposes of such sections. The commission shall~~
61 ~~determine, in its discretion, whether or not that there is probable cause that a~~
62 ~~violation has occurred. If the commission determines, by a vote of at least four~~
63 ~~members of the commission, that probable cause exists that a violation has~~
64 ~~occurred, the commission may refer its findings and conclusions to the~~
65 ~~appropriate disciplinary authority over the person who is the subject of the report,~~
66 ~~as described in subsection 8 of this section.~~

67 ~~4. If the appropriate disciplinary authority receiving a report from the~~
68 ~~commission pursuant to subsection 3 of this section fails to follow, within sixty~~
69 ~~days of the receipt of the report, the recommendations contained in the report, or~~
70 ~~if the commission determines, by a vote of at least four members of the~~
71 ~~commission that some action other than referral for criminal prosecution or for~~
72 ~~action by the appropriate disciplinary authority would be appropriate, the~~
73 ~~commission shall take any one or more of the following actions:~~

74 ~~(1) Notify the person to cease and desist violation of any provision of law~~
75 ~~which the report concludes was violated and that the commission may seek~~
76 ~~judicial enforcement of its decision pursuant to subsection 5 of this section;~~

77 ~~(2) Notify the person of the requirement to file, amend or correct any~~
78 ~~report, statement, or other document or information required by sections 105.473,~~
79 ~~105.483 to 105.492, or chapter 130 and that the commission may seek judicial~~
80 ~~enforcement of its decision pursuant to subsection 5 of this section; and~~

81 ~~(3) File the report with the executive director to be maintained as a public~~
82 ~~document; or~~

83 ~~(4) Issue a letter of concern or letter of reprimand to the person, which~~
84 ~~would be maintained as a public document; or~~

85 ~~————— (5) Issue a letter that no further action shall be taken, which would be~~
86 ~~maintained as a public document; or~~

87 ~~————— (6) Through reconciliation agreements or action of the commission, the~~
88 ~~power to seek fees for violations in an amount not greater than one thousand~~
89 ~~dollars or double the amount involved in the violation.~~

90 ~~————— 5. Upon vote of at least four members, the commission may initiate~~
91 ~~formal judicial proceedings in the circuit court of Cole County seeking to obtain~~
92 ~~any of the following orders:~~

93 ~~————— (1) Cease and desist violation of any provision of sections 105.450 to~~
94 ~~105.496, or chapter 130, or sections 105.955 to 105.963;~~

95 ~~————— (2) Pay any civil penalties required by sections 105.450 to 105.496 or~~
96 ~~chapter 130;~~

97 ~~————— (3) File any reports, statements, or other documents or information~~
98 ~~required by sections 105.450 to 105.496, or chapter 130; or~~

99 ~~————— (4) Pay restitution for any unjust enrichment the violator obtained as a~~
100 ~~result of any violation of any criminal statute as described in subsection 7 of this~~
101 ~~section.~~

102 ~~————— 6. After the commission determines by a vote of at least four members~~
103 ~~of the commission that a violation has occurred, other than a referral for criminal~~
104 ~~prosecution, and the commission has referred the findings and conclusions to the~~
105 ~~appropriate disciplinary authority over the person who is the subject of the report,~~
106 ~~or has taken an action under subsection 4 of this section, the subject of the report~~
107 ~~may appeal the determination of the commission to the circuit court of Cole~~
108 ~~County. The court shall conduct a de novo review of the determination of the~~
109 ~~commission. Such appeal shall stay the action of the Missouri ethics~~
110 ~~commission. Such appeal shall be filed not later than the fourteenth day after the~~
111 ~~subject of the commission's action receives actual notice of the commission's~~
112 ~~action. If a petition for judicial review of a final order is not filed as provided in~~
113 ~~this section or when an order for fees under subsection 4 of this section becomes~~
114 ~~final following an appeal to the circuit court of Cole County, the commission~~
115 ~~may file a certified copy of the final order with the circuit court of Cole County.~~
116 ~~When any order for fees under subsection 4 of this section becomes final, the~~
117 ~~commission may file a certified copy of the final order with the circuit court of~~
118 ~~Cole County. The order so filed shall have the same effect as a judgment of the~~
119 ~~court and may be recorded, enforced, or satisfied in the same manner as a~~
120 ~~judgment of the court.~~

121 ~~————— 7. In the proceeding in the circuit court of Cole County, the commission~~
122 ~~may seek restitution against any person who has obtained unjust enrichment as~~
123 ~~a result of violation of any provision of sections 105.450 to 105.496, or chapter~~
124 ~~130 and may recover on behalf of the state or political subdivision with which the~~
125 ~~alleged violator is associated, damages in the amount of any unjust enrichment~~
126 ~~obtained and costs and attorney's fees as ordered by the court.~~

127 ~~8. The appropriate disciplinary authority to whom a report shall be sent~~
128 ~~pursuant to subsection 2 or 3 of this section shall include, but not be limited to,~~
129 ~~the following:-~~

130 ~~(1) In the case of a member of the general assembly, the ethics committee~~
131 ~~of the house of which the subject of the report is a member;-~~

132 ~~(2) In the case of a person holding an elective office or an appointive~~
133 ~~office of the state, if the alleged violation is an impeachable offense, the report~~
134 ~~shall be referred to the ethics committee of the house of representatives;-~~

135 ~~(3) In the case of a person holding an elective office of a political~~
136 ~~subdivision, the report shall be referred to the governing body of the political~~
137 ~~subdivision;-~~

138 ~~(4) In the case of any officer or employee of the state or of a political~~
139 ~~subdivision, the report shall be referred to the person who has immediate~~
140 ~~supervisory authority over the employment by the state or by the political~~
141 ~~subdivision of the subject of the report;-~~

142 ~~(5) In the case of a judge of a court of law, the report shall be referred to~~
143 ~~the commission on retirement, removal and discipline, or if the inquiry involves~~
144 ~~an employee of the judiciary to the applicable presiding judge;-~~

145 ~~(6) In the case of a person holding an appointive office of the state, if the~~
146 ~~alleged violation is not an impeachable offense, the report shall be referred to the~~
147 ~~governor;-~~

148 ~~(7) In the case of a statewide elected official, the report shall be referred~~
149 ~~to the attorney general;-~~

150 ~~(8) In a case involving the attorney general, the report shall be referred~~
151 ~~to the prosecuting attorney of Cole County.-~~

152 ~~9. The special investigator having a complaint referred to the special~~
153 ~~investigator by the commission shall have the following powers:-~~

154 ~~(1) To request and shall be given access to information in the possession~~
155 ~~of any person or agency which the special investigator deems necessary for the~~
156 ~~discharge of the special investigator's responsibilities;-~~

157 ~~(2) To examine the records and documents of any person or agency,~~
158 ~~unless such examination would violate state or federal law providing for~~
159 ~~confidentiality;-~~

160 ~~(3) To administer oaths and affirmations;-~~

161 ~~(4) Upon refusal by any person to comply with a request for information~~
162 ~~relevant to an investigation, an investigator may issue a subpoena for any person~~
163 ~~to appear and give testimony, or for a subpoena duces tecum to produce~~
164 ~~documentary or other evidence which the investigator deems relevant to a matter~~
165 ~~under the investigator's inquiry. The subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum may~~
166 ~~be enforced by applying to a judge of the circuit court of Cole County or any~~
167 ~~county where the person or entity that has been subpoenaed resides or may be~~
168 ~~found, for an order to show cause why the subpoena or subpoena duces tecum~~
169 ~~should not be enforced. The order and a copy of the application therefor shall be~~

170 served in the same manner as a summons in a civil action, and if, after hearing,
171 the court determines that the subpoena or subpoena duces tecum should be
172 sustained and enforced, the court shall enforce the subpoena or subpoena duces
173 tecum in the same manner as if it had been issued by the court in a civil action;
174 and

175 ~~————— (5) To request from the commission such investigative, clerical or other~~
176 ~~staff assistance or advancement of other expenses which are necessary and~~
177 ~~convenient for the proper completion of an investigation. Within the limits of~~
178 ~~appropriations to the commission, the commission may provide such assistance,~~
179 ~~whether by contract to obtain such assistance or from staff employed by the~~
180 ~~commission, or may advance such expenses.—~~

181 ~~————— 10. (1) Any retired judge may request in writing to have the judge's name~~
182 ~~removed from the list of special investigators subject to appointment by the~~
183 ~~commission or may request to disqualify himself or herself from any~~
184 ~~investigation. Such request shall include the reasons for seeking removal;—~~

185 ~~————— (2) By vote of four members of the commission, the commission may~~
186 ~~disqualify a judge from a particular investigation or may permanently remove the~~
187 ~~name of any retired judge from the list of special investigators subject to~~
188 ~~appointment by the commission.—~~

189 ~~————— 11. Any person who is the subject of any investigation pursuant to this~~
190 ~~section shall be entitled to be represented by counsel at any proceeding before the~~
191 ~~special investigator or the commission.—~~

192 ~~————— 12. The provisions of sections 105.957, 105.959 and 105.961 are in~~
193 ~~addition to other provisions of law under which any remedy or right of appeal or~~
194 ~~objection is provided for any person, or any procedure provided for inquiry or~~
195 ~~investigation concerning any matter. The provisions of this section shall not be~~
196 ~~construed to limit or affect any other remedy or right of appeal or objection.—~~

197 ~~————— 13. No person shall be required to make or file a complaint to the~~
198 ~~commission as a prerequisite for exhausting the person's administrative remedies~~
199 ~~before pursuing any civil cause of action allowed by law.—~~

200 ~~————— 14. If, in the opinion of the commission, the complaining party was~~
201 ~~motivated by malice or reason contrary to the spirit of any law on which such~~
202 ~~complaint was based, in filing the complaint without just cause, this finding shall~~
203 ~~be reported to appropriate law enforcement authorities. Any person who~~
204 ~~knowingly files a complaint without just cause, or with malice, is guilty of a class~~
205 ~~A misdemeanor.—~~

206 ~~————— 15. A respondent party who prevails in a formal judicial action brought~~
207 ~~by the commission shall be awarded those reasonable fees and expenses incurred~~
208 ~~by that party in the formal judicial action, unless the court finds that the position~~
209 ~~of the commission was substantially justified or that special circumstances make~~
210 ~~such an award unjust.—~~

211 ~~————— 16. The special investigator and members and staff of the commission~~
212 ~~shall maintain confidentiality with respect to all matters concerning a complaint,~~

213 with the exception of communications with any person which are necessary to the
214 investigation. Any person who violates the confidentiality requirements imposed
215 by this section or subsection 17 of section 105.955 required to be confidential is
216 guilty of a class A misdemeanor and shall be subject to removal from or
217 termination of employment by the commission.

218 ~~17. Any judge of the court of appeals or circuit court who ceases to hold
219 such office by reason of the judge's retirement and who serves as a special
220 investigator pursuant to this section shall receive annual compensation, salary or
221 retirement for such services at the rates of compensation provided for senior
222 judges by subsections 1, 2 and 4 of section 476.682. Such retired judges shall by
223 the tenth day of each month following any month in which the judge provided
224 services pursuant to this section certify to the commission and to the state courts
225 administrator the amount of time engaged in such services by hour or fraction
226 thereof, the dates thereof, and the expenses incurred and allowable pursuant to
227 this section. The commission shall then issue a warrant to the state treasurer for
228 the payment of the salary and expenses to the extent, and within limitations,
229 provided for in this section. The state treasurer upon receipt of such warrant shall
230 pay the same out of any appropriations made for this purpose on the last day of
231 the month during which the warrant was received by the state treasurer.]~~

232

105.961. 1. Upon receipt of a complaint as described by section 105.957, the
2 commission shall assign the complaint to a special investigator, who may be a commission
3 employee, who shall investigate and determine the merits of the complaint. Within ten days of
4 such assignment, the special investigator shall review such complaint and disclose, in writing,
5 to the commission any conflict of interest which the special investigator has or might have with
6 respect to the investigation and subject thereof. Within one hundred twenty days of receipt of
7 the complaint from the commission, the special investigator shall submit the special
8 investigator's report to the commission. The commission, after review of such report, shall
9 determine:

10 (1) That there is reasonable grounds for belief that a violation has occurred; or

11 (2) That there are no reasonable grounds for belief that a violation exists and the
12 complaint should be dismissed; or

13 (3) That additional time is necessary to complete the investigation, and the status and
14 progress of the investigation to date. The commission, in its discretion, may allow the
15 investigation to proceed for additional successive periods of one hundred twenty days each,
16 pending reports regarding the status and progress of the investigation at the end of each such
17 period.

18 2. When the commission concludes, based on the report from the special investigator,
19 or based on an audit conducted pursuant to section 105.959, that there are reasonable grounds
20 to believe that a violation of any criminal law has occurred, and if the commission believes that

21 criminal prosecution would be appropriate upon a vote of four members of the commission, the
22 commission shall refer the report to the Missouri office of prosecution services, prosecutors
23 coordinators training council established in section 56.760, which shall submit a panel of five
24 attorneys for recommendation to the court having criminal jurisdiction, for appointment of an
25 attorney to serve as a special prosecutor; except that, the attorney general of Missouri or any
26 assistant attorney general shall not act as such special prosecutor. The court shall then appoint
27 from such panel a special prosecutor pursuant to section 56.110 who shall have all the powers
28 provided by section 56.130. The court shall allow a reasonable and necessary attorney's fee for
29 the services of the special prosecutor. Such fee shall be assessed as costs if a case is filed, or
30 ordered by the court if no case is filed, and paid together with all other costs in the proceeding
31 by the state, in accordance with rules and regulations promulgated by the state courts
32 administrator, subject to funds appropriated to the office of administration for such purposes.
33 If the commission does not have sufficient funds to pay a special prosecutor, the commission
34 shall refer the case to the prosecutor or prosecutors having criminal jurisdiction. If the
35 prosecutor having criminal jurisdiction is not able to prosecute the case due to a conflict of
36 interest, the court may appoint a special prosecutor, paid from county funds, upon appropriation
37 by the county or the attorney general to investigate and, if appropriate, prosecute the case. The
38 special prosecutor or prosecutor shall commence an action based on the report by the filing of
39 an information or seeking an indictment within sixty days of the date of such prosecutor's
40 appointment, or shall file a written statement with the commission explaining why criminal
41 charges should not be sought. If the special prosecutor or prosecutor fails to take either action
42 required by this subsection, upon request of the commission, a new special prosecutor, who may
43 be the attorney general, shall be appointed. The report may also be referred to the appropriate
44 disciplinary authority over the person who is the subject of the report.

45 3. When the commission concludes, based on the report from the special investigator or
46 based on an audit conducted pursuant to section 105.959, that there are reasonable grounds to
47 believe that a violation of any law has occurred which is not a violation of criminal law or that
48 criminal prosecution is not appropriate, the commission shall conduct a hearing which shall be
49 a closed meeting and not open to the public. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the
50 procedures provided by sections 536.063 to 536.090 and shall be considered to be a contested
51 case for purposes of ~~such~~ sections **536.063 to 536.090**. The commission shall determine, in
52 its discretion, whether or not that there is probable cause that a violation has occurred. If the
53 commission determines, by a vote of at least four members of the commission, that probable
54 cause exists that a violation has occurred, the commission may refer its findings and conclusions
55 to the appropriate disciplinary authority over the person who is the subject of the report, as
56 described in subsection 7 of this section. After the commission determines by a vote of at least

57 four members of the commission that probable cause exists that a violation has occurred, and the
58 commission has referred the findings and conclusions to the appropriate disciplinary authority
59 over the person subject of the report, the subject of the report may appeal the determination of
60 the commission to the administrative hearing commission. Such appeal shall stay the action of
61 the Missouri ethics commission. Such appeal shall be filed not later than the fourteenth day after
62 the subject of the commission's action receives actual notice of the commission's action.

63 4. If the appropriate disciplinary authority receiving a report from the commission
64 pursuant to subsection 3 of this section fails to follow, within sixty days of the receipt of the
65 report, the recommendations contained in the report, or if the commission determines, by a vote
66 of at least four members of the commission that some action other than referral for criminal
67 prosecution or for action by the appropriate disciplinary authority would be appropriate, the
68 commission shall take any one or more of the following actions:

69 (1) Notify the person to cease and desist violation of any provision of law which the
70 report concludes was violated and that the commission may seek judicial enforcement of its
71 decision pursuant to subsection 5 of this section;

72 (2) Notify the person of the requirement to file, amend or correct any report, statement,
73 or other document or information required by sections 105.473, 105.483 to 105.492, or chapter
74 130 and that the commission may seek judicial enforcement of its decision pursuant to
75 subsection 5 of this section; and

76 (3) File the report with the executive director to be maintained as a public document; or

77 (4) Issue a letter of concern or letter of reprimand to the person, which would be
78 maintained as a public document; or

79 (5) Issue a letter that no further action shall be taken, which would be maintained as a
80 public document; or

81 (6) Through reconciliation agreements or civil action, the power to seek fees for
82 violations in an amount not greater than one thousand dollars or double the amount involved in
83 the violation.

84 5. Upon vote of at least four members, the commission may initiate formal judicial
85 proceedings seeking to obtain any of the following orders:

86 (1) Cease and desist violation of any provision of sections 105.450 to 105.496, [ø] ~~ø~~
87 chapter 130, **the requirements set forth in the Constitution of Missouri related to campaign**
88 **finance**, or sections 105.955 to 105.963;

89 (2) Pay any civil penalties required by sections 105.450 to 105.496 [ø] ~~ø~~, chapter 130,
90 **or the requirements set forth in the Constitution of Missouri related to campaign finance**;

91 (3) File any reports, statements, or other documents or information required by sections
92 105.450 to 105.496, or chapter 130; or

93 (4) Pay restitution for any unjust enrichment the violator obtained as a result of any
94 violation of any criminal statute as described in subsection 6 of this section.

95

96 The Missouri ethics commission shall give actual notice to the subject of the complaint of the
97 proposed action as set out in this section. The subject of the complaint may appeal the action
98 of the Missouri ethics commission, other than a referral for criminal prosecution, to the
99 administrative hearing commission. Such appeal shall stay the action of the Missouri ethics
100 commission. Such appeal shall be filed no later than fourteen days after the subject of the
101 commission's actions receives actual notice of the commission's actions.

102 6. In the proceeding in circuit court, the commission may seek restitution against any
103 person who has obtained unjust enrichment as a result of violation of any provision of sections
104 105.450 to 105.496, or chapter 130 and may recover on behalf of the state or political
105 subdivision with which the alleged violator is associated, damages in the amount of any unjust
106 enrichment obtained and costs and attorney's fees as ordered by the court.

107 7. The appropriate disciplinary authority to whom a report shall be sent pursuant to
108 subsection 2 or 3 of this section shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

109 (1) In the case of a member of the general assembly, the ethics committee of the house
110 of which the subject of the report is a member;

111 (2) In the case of a person holding an elective office or an appointive office of the state,
112 if the alleged violation is an impeachable offense, the report shall be referred to the ethics
113 committee of the house of representatives;

114 (3) In the case of a person holding an elective office of a political subdivision, the report
115 shall be referred to the governing body of the political subdivision;

116 (4) In the case of any officer or employee of the state or of a political subdivision, the
117 report shall be referred to the person who has immediate supervisory authority over the
118 employment by the state or by the political subdivision of the subject of the report;

119 (5) In the case of a judge of a court of law, the report shall be referred to the commission
120 on retirement, removal and discipline, or if the inquiry involves an employee of the judiciary to
121 the applicable presiding judge;

122 (6) In the case of a person holding an appointive office of the state, if the alleged
123 violation is not an impeachable offense, the report shall be referred to the governor;

124 (7) In the case of a statewide elected official, the report shall be referred to the attorney
125 general;

126 (8) In a case involving the attorney general, the report shall be referred to the prosecuting
127 attorney of Cole County.

128 8. The special investigator having a complaint referred to the special investigator by the
129 commission shall have the following powers:

130 (1) To request and shall be given access to information in the possession of any person
131 or agency which the special investigator deems necessary for the discharge of the special
132 investigator's responsibilities;

133 (2) To examine the records and documents of any person or agency, unless such
134 examination would violate state or federal law providing for confidentiality;

135 (3) To administer oaths and affirmations;

136 (4) Upon refusal by any person to comply with a request for information relevant to an
137 investigation, an investigator may issue a subpoena for any person to appear and give testimony,
138 or for a subpoena duces tecum to produce documentary or other evidence which the investigator
139 deems relevant to a matter under the investigator's inquiry. The subpoenas and subpoenas duces
140 tecum may be enforced by applying to a judge of the circuit court of Cole County or any county
141 where the person or entity that has been subpoenaed resides or may be found, for an order to
142 show cause why the subpoena or subpoena duces tecum should not be enforced. The order and
143 a copy of the application therefor shall be served in the same manner as a summons in a civil
144 action, and if, after hearing, the court determines that the subpoena or subpoena duces tecum
145 should be sustained and enforced, the court shall enforce the subpoena or subpoena duces tecum
146 in the same manner as if it had been issued by the court in a civil action; and

147 (5) To request from the commission such investigative, clerical or other staff assistance
148 or advancement of other expenses which are necessary and convenient for the proper completion
149 of an investigation. Within the limits of appropriations to the commission, the commission may
150 provide such assistance, whether by contract to obtain such assistance or from staff employed
151 by the commission, or may advance such expenses.

152 9. (1) Any retired judge may request in writing to have the judge's name removed from
153 the list of special investigators subject to appointment by the commission or may request to
154 disqualify himself or herself from any investigation. Such request shall include the reasons for
155 seeking removal;

156 (2) By vote of four members of the commission, the commission may disqualify a judge
157 from a particular investigation or may permanently remove the name of any retired judge from
158 the list of special investigators subject to appointment by the commission.

159 10. Any person who is the subject of any investigation pursuant to this section shall be
160 entitled to be represented by counsel at any proceeding before the special investigator or the
161 commission.

162 11. The provisions of sections 105.957, 105.959 and 105.961 are in addition to other
163 provisions of law under which any remedy or right of appeal or objection is provided for any

164 person, or any procedure provided for inquiry or investigation concerning any matter. The
165 provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit or affect any other remedy or right of
166 appeal or objection.

167 12. No person shall be required to make or file a complaint to the commission as a
168 prerequisite for exhausting the person's administrative remedies before pursuing any civil cause
169 of action allowed by law.

170 13. If, in the opinion of the commission, the complaining party was motivated by malice
171 or reason contrary to the spirit of any law on which such complaint was based, in filing the
172 complaint without just cause, this finding shall be reported to appropriate law enforcement
173 authorities. Any person who knowingly files a complaint without just cause, or with malice, is
174 guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

175 14. A respondent party who prevails in a formal judicial action brought by the
176 commission shall be awarded those reasonable fees and expenses incurred by that party in the
177 formal judicial action, unless the court finds that the position of the commission was
178 substantially justified or that special circumstances make such an award unjust.

179 15. The special investigator and members and staff of the commission shall maintain
180 confidentiality with respect to all matters concerning a complaint until and if a report is filed
181 with the commission, with the exception of communications with any person which are
182 necessary to the investigation. ~~[The report filed with the commission resulting from a complaint
183 acted upon under the provisions of this section shall not contain the name of the complainant or
184 other person providing information to the investigator, if so requested in writing by the
185 complainant or such other person.]~~ Any person who violates the confidentiality requirements
186 imposed by this section or subsection 17 of section 105.955 ~~[required to be confidential]~~ is guilty
187 of a class A misdemeanor and shall be subject to removal from or termination of employment
188 by the commission.

189 16. Any judge of the court of appeals or circuit court who ceases to hold such office by
190 reason of the judge's retirement and who serves as a special investigator pursuant to this section
191 shall receive annual compensation, salary or retirement for such services at the rates of
192 compensation provided for senior judges by subsections 1, 2 and 4 of section 476.682. Such
193 retired judges shall by the tenth day of each month following any month in which the judge
194 provided services pursuant to this section certify to the commission and to the state courts
195 administrator the amount of time engaged in such services by hour or fraction thereof, the dates
196 thereof, and the expenses incurred and allowable pursuant to this section. The commission shall
197 then issue a warrant to the state treasurer for the payment of the salary and expenses to the extent,
198 and within limitations, provided for in this section. The state treasurer upon receipt of such

199 warrant shall pay the same out of any appropriations made for this purpose on the last day of the
200 month during which the warrant was received by the state treasurer.

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