

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1

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2000 Regular Session
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By: **Senator Collins (Co-Chairman, Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics)**

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2000

Assigned to: Economic and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2000

RESOLUTION NO. 1

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Rules of Legislative Ethics**

3 FOR the purpose of repealing obsolete Rules of Legislative Ethics; adopting a
4 standard for the waiver of confidentiality in certain matters before the Joint
5 Committee on Legislative Ethics; and generally relating to the Rules of
6 Legislative Ethics.

7 WHEREAS, The General Assembly adopted significant substantive changes to
8 the Maryland Public Ethics Law in Chapters 129 and 130 of the Acts of 1999; and

9 WHEREAS, The Rules of Legislative Ethics previously in effect were a mere
10 repetition of the previous statutory provisions and therefore are now obsolete; and

11 WHEREAS, Section 15-516(a)(3) of the State Government Article, as enacted
12 under the new Ethics Law, specifically requires the General Assembly to establish, by
13 Rule, criteria for the Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics to follow when
14 considering whether to waive the general requirement of confidentiality in
15 investigatory proceedings of the Joint Committee; and

16 WHEREAS, Further additions to the Rules of Legislative Ethics are not
17 currently proposed; now, therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Rules
19 of Legislative Ethics, published as Rules 118 through 130 of the Rules of the Senate of
20 Maryland and Rules 118 through 130 of the Rules of the House of Delegates of
21 Maryland, are hereby repealed; and be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the following Rule of Legislative Ethics is adopted:

23 1. Waiver of confidentiality.

1 The Joint Committee on Legislative Ethics, in its exercise of the authority
2 granted under § 15-516(b)(3)(ii) of the State Government Article and upon a vote of
3 three-fourths of the membership of the Joint Committee, may allow public access to
4 and inspection of information relating to a complaint, proceeding, or record if
5 disclosure is necessary to uphold the integrity of the ethics investigation process.