



Press Release
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**ETHICS COMMISSION DISCUSSES EDUCATION EFFORT ON IN-TERM
INCREASES IN COMPENSATION**

At its meeting today, the Ohio Ethics Commission received an update on a completed public education mailing regarding in-term increases in compensation. At its March meeting, because of continued confusion about standards, the Ohio Ethics Commission directed its staff to prepare an information packet about in-term increases in compensation, and to mail the packet to all municipalities in the state. The packet, which was mailed yesterday, included a fact sheet and memorandum explaining that the Ethics Law and related statutes prohibit a municipal official from participating in an action to raise his salary during his term of office. The fact sheet and memorandum further clarify that a newly re-elected officeholder is prohibited from participating in an action to raise the salary for the position to which he has been re-elected, or for a new position to which he has been elected, in the time period between the election and the beginning of his new term of office.

"The information in the packet is intended to resolve any questions municipal officials may have about the application of the Ethics Law to in-term increase in compensation," stated Executive Director David E. Freel. "The packet was sent to municipal mayors, clerks, council presidents, and legal officers."

"The Commission also mailed a copy of its Index to Advisory Opinions, which was recently updated, to the municipal legal officers," Freel continued. "The Index should assist these individuals in obtaining information about the Ethics Law for their constituents."

Both the in-term increases in compensation information packet and the Index to Advisory Opinions can be obtained from the Ethics Commission.

In other business, the Commission adopted two informal advisory opinions, and heard

reports on financial disclosure and public information. In a session that is statutorily closed to the public, the Commission discussed pending legislation, considered complaints and pending investigations, and reviewed confidential financial disclosure statements.

The Ohio Ethics Commission is an independent agency of state government charged with interpreting and administering the Ohio Ethics Law for many state and local public officials and employees. The Commission has been serving the public, and state and local governments, since its formation as part of the Ohio Ethics Law in 1973.