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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES ADVISORY OPINION

At its meeting today, the Ohio Ethics Commission issued an advisory opinion regarding potential conflicts of interest.

Hypothetical Opinion 2011-02 was prompted by questions about the ability of state department staff to act on a regulatory or similar matter where a department director had a conflict of interest such that the Ohio Ethics Law would require the director to withdraw from participating in the matter. In the opinion, the Commission concluded that when a conflict of interest requires that a department director withdraw from a matter before the department, the director is considered absent from the department and an assistant director can act in the director's place. The opinion will soon be available on the Commission's web site.

The Ohio Ethics Commission is an independent agency that oversees the Ohio Ethics Law for most state and local public officials and employees. The Commission can provide, on its own initiative or upon request, ethics advice to public officials before they act. The Commission has been serving the public and state and local government since its creation as part of the Ohio Ethics Law in 1973.