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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

OHIO ETHICS COMMISSION ISSUES FREQUENT FLYER MILES OPINION

At its meeting on August 4, 2025, the Ohio Ethics Commission approved [Formal Advisory Opinion 2025 – 02](#) which allows public officials or employees to use frequent flyer miles that were earned during official travel for personal travel.

Although the Commission had previously restricted the use of frequent flyer miles accrued during official travel for personal use, this advisory opinion states that public officials and employees may use frequent flyer miles that were earned during official travel for personal travel if they earn the miles under the same conditions as the public and at no additional cost to their public agencies. While this Advisory Opinion primarily references frequent flyer miles, the analysis also applies to other reward points programs.

“Frequent flyer account numbers are so often used by airlines as personal identifiers that it’s difficult for travelers to opt out of these programs,” said Executive Director Paul Nick. “The Commission believed it was appropriate to revise its guidance on official travel and align it with how the federal government treats them.”

The opinion notes that public official and employees are prohibited from choosing an airline, vendor, or service based solely on whether it provides frequent flyer miles or other rewards points.

Additionally, a planner who books a group trip for multiple travelers and could therefore earn a substantial number of frequent flyer miles or reward points from one event is prohibited from personally using rewards earned in connection to booking the group travel.

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