



STATE OF MAINE  
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS  
AND ELECTION PRACTICES  
135 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0135

To: Presiding Officers and Leaders  
Co-Chairs, Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

From: Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director

Date: March 28, 2016

Re: 30-Day Update of Statement of Sources of Income

---

This memo is to notify you about the activities of the Ethics Commission staff to highlight the requirement for Legislators to update their annual statement of sources of income. A Legislator is required to file an updated statement with the Commission *within 30 days* if a Legislator or his or her spouse or domestic partner:

- has a substantial change in income of \$2,000 or more (*e.g.*, a new employer),
- obtains a new unsecured loan of \$3,000 or more, or
- accepts a new position in a for-profit or non-profit organization.

(Please see the other side of this page for the exact requirements.)

Our review of the 2016 annual statements suggests that many Legislators are unaware of the 30-day update requirement. We found 50 State Representatives and eight State Senators with one of the above changes who did not file a 30-day update within 2016.

To encourage greater disclosure this year, the Commission staff has updated our website guidance on this requirement and developed a new form specifically for this update. In the future, we will also include more information about the requirement in written materials given to Legislators and send an annual reminder.

The Commission staff is viewing this as an opportunity to provide more effective education to Legislators. This topic is scheduled for a general discussion by the Commissioners at their April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting *without reference to specific Legislators*. The Commissioners would welcome any comments you would like to offer. Thank you.

**1 M.R.S.A. § 1016-G. Disclosure of specific sources of income, interests and reportable liabilities**

. . .

**2. Time for filing.** The following provisions govern the time for filing statements.

A. Each Legislator shall file with the commission by 5:00 p.m. on February 15th of each year on the form provided by the commission a statement of the sources of income, interests and reportable liabilities for the preceding calendar year required by subsection 1. Prior to the end of the first week in January of each year, the commission shall deliver a form to each Senator and member of the House of Representatives.

B. A Legislator shall file an updated statement concerning the current calendar year if the income, reportable liabilities or positions of the Legislator or an immediate family member, except for dependent children, substantially change from those disclosed in the Legislator's most recent statement. Substantial changes include, but are not limited to, a new employer that has paid the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family \$2,000 or more during the current year, another source that has provided the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family, excluding dependent children, with income that totals \$2,000 or more during the current year or the acceptance of a new position with a for-profit or nonprofit firm that is reportable under subsection 1, paragraph L. The Legislator shall file the updated statement within 30 days of the substantial change in income, reportable liabilities or positions.

. . .