

Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS)

11A.020 Public servant prohibited from certain conduct -- Exception – Disclosure of personal or private interest

(1) No public servant, by himself or through others, shall knowingly:

(a) Use or attempt to use his influence in any matter which involves a substantial conflict between his personal or private interest and his duties in the public interest;

(b) Use or attempt to use any means to influence a public agency in derogation of the state at large;

(c) Use his official position or office to obtain financial gain for himself or any members of the public servant's family; or

(d) Use or attempt to use his official position to secure or create privileges, exemptions, advantages, or treatment for himself or others in derogation of the public interest at large.

(2) If a public servant appears before a state agency, he shall avoid all conduct which might in any way lead members of the general public to conclude that he is using his official position to further his professional or private interest.

(3) When a public servant abstains from action on an official decision in which he has or may have a personal or private interest, he shall disclose that fact in writing to his superior, who shall cause the decision on these matters to be made by an impartial third party.

(4) The prohibitions imposed by subsection (1)(c) of this section shall not apply to Professional Golfers' Association class A members who teach golf lessons and receive a fee or lesson charge at golf courses owned and operated by the Kentucky Department of Parks. Instruction provided by an employee of the Commonwealth shall only be given while the employee is on his or her own personal time. The commissioner of the Department of Parks shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish guidelines for the process by which Professional Golfers' Association class A members are approved to teach golf lessons at Kentucky Department of Parks-owned golf courses. The exception granted by this subsection is in recognition of the benefits that will accrue to the Kentucky Department of Parks due to increased participation at state-owned golf courses.

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11A.030 Considerations in determination to abstain from action on official decision -- Advisory opinion

In determining whether to abstain from action on an official decision because of a possible conflict of interest, a public servant should consider the following guidelines:

- (1) Whether a substantial threat to his independence of judgment has been created by his personal or private interest;
- (2) The effect of his participation on public confidence in the integrity of the executive branch;
- (3) Whether his participation is likely to have any significant effect on the disposition of the matter;
- (4) The need for his particular contribution, such as special knowledge of the subject matter, to the effective functioning of the executive branch; or
- (5) Whether the official decision will affect him in a manner differently from the public or will affect him as a member of a business, profession, occupation, or group to no greater extent generally than other members of such business, profession, occupation, or group. A public servant may request an advisory opinion from the Executive Branch Ethics Commission in accordance with the commission's rules of procedure.

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11A.040 Acts prohibited for public servant or officer -- Exception

(1) A public servant, in order to further his own economic interests, or those of any other person, shall not knowingly disclose or use confidential information acquired in the course of his official duties.

(2) A public servant shall not knowingly receive, directly or indirectly, any interest or profit arising from the use or loan of public funds in his hands or to be raised through any state agency.

(3) A public servant shall not knowingly act as a representative or agent for the Commonwealth or any agency in the transaction of any business or regulatory action with himself, or with any business in which he or a member of his family has any interest greater than five percent (5%) of the total value thereof.

(4) A public servant shall not knowingly himself or through any business in which he owns or controls an interest of more than five percent (5%), or by any other person for his use or benefit or on his account, undertake, execute, hold, bid on, negotiate, or enjoy, in whole or in part, any contract, agreement, lease, sale, or purchase made, entered into, awarded, or granted by the agency by which he is employed or which he supervises, subject to the provisions of KRS 45A.340. This provision shall not apply to:

(a) A contract, purchase, or good faith negotiation made pursuant to KRS Chapter 416 relating to eminent domain; or

(b) Agreements which may directly or indirectly involve public funds disbursed through entitlement programs; or

(c) A public servant's spouse or child doing business with any state agency other than the agency by which the public servant is employed or which he supervises; or

(d) Purchases from a state agency that are available on the same terms to the general public or that are made at public auction; or (e) Sales of craft items to a state park by interim state employees designated as craftspersons under KRS 148.257.

(5) A public servant shall not knowingly accept compensation, other than that provided by law for public servants, for performance of his official duties without the prior approval of the commission.

(6) A former officer or public servant listed in KRS 11A.010(9)(a) to (g) shall not, within six (6) months of termination of his employment, knowingly by himself or through any business in which he owns or controls an interest of at least five percent (5%), or by any other person for his use or benefit or on his account, undertake, execute, hold, bid on, negotiate, or enjoy, in whole or in part, any contract, agreement, lease, sale, or purchase made, entered into, awarded, or granted by the agency by which he was employed. This provision shall not apply to a contract, purchase, or good faith negotiation made under KRS Chapter 416 relating to eminent domain or to agreements that may directly or indirectly involve public funds disbursed through entitlement programs. This provision shall not apply to purchases from a state agency that are available on the same terms to the general public or that are made at public auction. This provision shall not

apply to former officers of the Department of Public Advocacy whose continued representation of clients is necessary in order to prevent an adverse effect on the client.

(7) A present or former officer or public servant listed in KRS 11A.010(9)(a) to (g) shall not, within six (6) months following termination of his office or employment, accept employment, compensation, or other economic benefit from any person or business that contracts or does business with, or is regulated by, the state in matters in which he was directly involved during the last thirty-six (36) months of his tenure. This provision shall not prohibit an individual from returning to the same business, firm, occupation, or profession in which he was involved prior to taking office or beginning his term of employment, or for which he received, prior to his state employment, a professional degree or license, provided that, for a period of six (6) months, he personally refrains from working on any matter in which he was directly involved during the last thirty-six (36) months of his tenure in state government. This subsection shall not prohibit the performance of ministerial functions, including but not limited to filing tax returns, filing applications for permits or licenses, or filing incorporation papers, nor shall it prohibit the former officer or public servant from receiving public funds disbursed through entitlement programs.

(8) A former public servant shall not act as a lobbyist or lobbyist's principal in matters in which he was directly involved during the last thirty-six (36) months of his tenure for a period of one (1) year after the latter of:

(a) The date of leaving office or termination of employment; or

(b) The date the term of office expires to which the public servant was elected.

(9) A former public servant shall not represent a person or business before a state agency in a matter in which the former public servant was directly involved during the last thirty-six (36) months of his tenure, for a period of one (1) year after the latter of:

(a) The date of leaving office or termination of employment; or

(b) The date the term of office expires to which the public servant was elected.

(10) Without the approval of his appointing authority, a public servant shall not accept outside employment from any person or business that does business with or is regulated by the state agency for which the public servant works or which he supervises, unless the outside employer's relationship with the state agency is limited to the receipt of entitlement funds.

(a) The appointing authority shall review administrative regulations established under KRS Chapter 11A when deciding whether to approve outside employment for a public servant.

(b) The appointing authority shall not approve outside employment for a public servant if the public servant is involved in decision-making or recommendations concerning the person or business from which the public servant seeks outside employment or compensation.

(c) The appointing authority, if applicable, shall file quarterly with the Executive Branch Ethics Commission a list of all employees who have been approved for outside employment along with the name of the outside employer of each.

(11) The prohibitions imposed by subsection (5) or (10) of this section shall not apply to Professional Golfers' Association class A members who teach golf lessons and receive a fee or lesson charge at golf courses owned and operated by the Kentucky Department of Parks. Instruction provided by an employee of the Commonwealth shall only be given while the employee is on his or her own personal time. The commissioner of the Department of Parks shall promulgate administrative regulations to establish guidelines for the process by which Professional Golfers' Association class A members are approved to teach golf lessons at Kentucky Department of Parks-owned golf courses. The exception granted by this subsection is in recognition of the benefits that will accrue to the Kentucky Department of Parks due to increased participation at state-owned golf courses.

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224.10-020 Departments within the cabinet -- Offices and divisions within the departments -- Appointments

(1) There is established within the cabinet a Department for Natural Resources, a Department for Environmental Protection, and a Department for Energy Development and Independence. Each

department shall be headed by a commissioner appointed by the secretary with the approval of the Governor as required by KRS 12.050. The commissioners shall be directly responsible to the secretary and shall perform such functions, powers, and duties as provided by law and as the secretary may prescribe.

(2) There is established within the Department for Natural Resources a Division of Forestry, a Division of Conservation, a Division of Technical and Administrative Support, a Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement, a Division of Mine Permits, a Division of Abandoned Mine Lands, a Division of Oil and Gas, and an Office of Mine Safety and Licensing. There shall be established within the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing a Division of Safety Inspection and Licensing and a Division of Safety Analysis, Training, and Certification. The Kentucky Mining Board is attached to the Office of Mine Safety and Licensing for administrative purposes. Each division shall be headed by a director and each office shall be headed by an executive director. Directors and executive directors shall be appointed by the secretary with the approval of the Governor as required by KRS 12.050, except for the director of the Division of Conservation, who shall be appointed in accordance with KRS 146.100. Both directors and executive directors shall be directly responsible to the commissioner and shall perform the functions, powers, and duties as provided by law and as prescribed by the secretary.

(3) There is established within the Department for Environmental Protection a Division of Water, a Division for Air Quality, a Division of Waste Management, a Division of Enforcement, a Division of Compliance Assistance, and a Division of Environmental Program Support. Each division shall be headed by a director appointed by the secretary with the approval of the Governor as required by KRS 12.050. Directors shall be directly responsible to the commissioner and shall perform the functions, powers, and duties as provided by law and as prescribed by the secretary.

(4) There is established within the Department for Energy Development and Independence a Division of Energy Efficiency and Conservation, a Division of Renewable Energy, a Division of Biofuels, a Division of Energy Generation, Transmission and Distribution, a Division of Carbon Management, and a Division of Fossil Energy Development. Each division shall be headed by a director. Directors shall be appointed by the secretary with the approval of the Governor as required by KRS 12.050.

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224.10-100 Powers and duties of cabinet

In addition to any other powers and duties vested in it by law, the cabinet shall have the authority, power, and duty to:

- (1) Exercise general supervision of the administration and enforcement of this chapter, and all rules, regulations, and orders promulgated thereunder;
- (2) Prepare and develop a comprehensive plan or plans related to the environment of the Commonwealth;
- (3) Encourage industrial, commercial, residential, and community development which provides the best usage of land areas, maximizes environmental benefits, and minimizes the effects of less desirable environmental conditions;
- (4) Develop and conduct a comprehensive program for the management of water, land, and air resources to assure their protection and balance utilization consistent with the environmental policy of the Commonwealth;
- (5) Provide for the prevention, abatement, and control of all water, land, and air pollution, including but not limited to that related to particulates, pesticides, gases, dust, vapors, noise, radiation, odor, nutrients, heated liquid, or other contaminants;
- (6) Provide for the control and regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation in a manner to accomplish the purposes of KRS Chapter 350;
- (7) Secure necessary scientific, technical, administrative, and operational services, including laboratory facilities, by contract or otherwise;
- (8) Collect and disseminate information and conduct educational and training programs relating to the protection of the environment;
- (9) Appear and participate in proceedings before any federal regulatory agency involving or affecting the purposes of the cabinet;
- (10) Enter and inspect any property or premises for the purpose of investigating either actual or suspected sources of pollution or contamination or for the purpose of ascertaining compliance or noncompliance with this chapter, or any regulation which may be promulgated thereunder;
- (11) Conduct investigations and hold hearings and compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of accounts, books, and records by the issuance of subpoenas;
- (12) Accept, receive, and administer grants or other funds or gifts from public and private agencies including the federal government for the purpose of carrying out any of the functions of the cabinet. The funds received by the cabinet shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the account of the cabinet;
- (13) Request and receive the assistance of any state or municipal educational institution, experiment station, laboratory, or other agency when it is deemed necessary or beneficial by the cabinet in the performance of its duties;

(14) Advise, consult, and cooperate with other agencies of the Commonwealth, other states, the federal government, and interstate and interlocal agencies, and affected persons, groups, and industries;

(15) Formulate guides for measuring presently unidentified environmental values and relationships so they can be given appropriate consideration along with social, economic, and technical considerations in decision making;

(16) Monitor the environment to afford more effective and efficient control practices, to identify changes and conditions in ecological systems, and to warn of emergency conditions;

(17) Adopt, modify, or repeal with the recommendation of the commission any standard, regulation, or plan specified in KRS 224.01-110 (5) and (6);

(18) Issue, after hearing, orders abating activities in violation of this chapter, or the provisions of this chapter, or the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto and requiring the adoption of the remedial measures the cabinet deems necessary;

(19) Issue, continue in effect, revoke, modify, suspend, or deny under such conditions as the cabinet may prescribe and require that applications be accompanied by plans, specifications, and other information the cabinet deems necessary for the following permits:

(a) Permits to discharge into any waters of the Commonwealth, and for the installation, alteration, expansion, or operation of any sewage system; however, the cabinet may refuse to issue the permits to any person, or any partnership, corporation, etc., of which the person owns more than ten percent (10%) interest, who has improperly constructed, operated, or maintained a sewage system willfully, through negligence, or because of lack of proper knowledge or qualifications until the time that person demonstrates proper qualifications to the cabinet and provides the cabinet with a performance bond;

(b) Permits for the installation, alteration, or use of any machine, equipment, device, or other article that may cause or contribute to air pollution or is intended primarily to prevent or control the emission of air pollution; or

(c) Permits for the establishment or construction and the operation or maintenance of waste disposal sites and facilities; (20) May establish, by regulation, a fee or schedule of fees for the cost of processing applications for permits authorized by this chapter, and for the cost of processing applications for exemptions or partial exemptions which may include but not be limited to the administrative costs of a hearing held as a result of the exemption application, except that applicants for existing or proposed publicly owned facilities shall be exempt from any charge, other than emissions fees assessed pursuant to KRS 224.20-050, and that certain nonprofit organizations shall be charged lower fees to process water discharge permits under KRS 224.16-050(5);

(21) May require for persons discharging into the waters or onto the land of the Commonwealth, by regulation, order, or permit, technological levels of treatment and effluent limitations;

(22) Require, by regulation, that any person engaged in any operation regulated pursuant to this chapter install, maintain, and use at such locations and intervals as the cabinet may prescribe any equipment, device, or test and the methodologies and procedures for the use of the equipment, device, or test to monitor the nature and amount of any substance emitted or discharged into the ambient air or waters or land of the Commonwealth and to provide any information concerning the monitoring to the cabinet in accordance with the provisions of subsection (23) of this section;

(23) Require by regulation that any person engaged in any operation regulated pursuant to this chapter file with the cabinet reports containing information as to location, size, height, rate of emission or discharge, and composition of any substance discharged or emitted into the ambient air or into the waters or onto the land of the Commonwealth, and such other information the cabinet may require;

(24) Promulgate regulations, guidelines, and standards for waste planning and management activities, approve waste management facilities, develop and publish a comprehensive statewide plan for nonhazardous waste management which shall contain but not be limited to the provisions set forth in KRS 224.43-345, and develop and publish a comprehensive statewide plan for hazardous waste management which shall contain but not be limited to the following:

(a) A description of current hazardous waste management practices and costs, including treatment and disposal, within the Commonwealth;

(b) An inventory and description of all existing facilities where hazardous waste is being generated, treated, recycled, stored, or disposed of, including an inventory of the deficiencies of present facilities in meeting current hazardous waste management needs and a statement of the ability of present hazardous waste management facilities to comply with state and federal laws relating to hazardous waste;

(c) A description of the sources of hazardous waste affecting the Commonwealth including the types and quantities of hazardous waste currently being generated and a projection of such activities as can be expected to continue for not less than twenty (20) years into the future; and

(d) An identification and continuing evaluation of those locations within the Commonwealth which are naturally or may be engineered to be suitable for the establishment of hazardous waste management facilities, and an identification of those general characteristics, values, and attributes which would render a particular location unsuitable, consistent with the policy of minimizing land disposal and encouraging the treatment and recycling of the wastes. The statewide waste management plans shall be developed consistent with state and federal laws relating to waste;

(25) Perform other acts necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities described in this section;

(26) Preserve existing clean air resources while ensuring economic growth by issuing regulations, which shall be no more stringent than federal requirements, setting maximum allowable increases from stationary sources over baseline concentrations of air contaminants to prevent significant deterioration in areas meeting the state and national ambient air quality standards;

(27) Promulgate regulations concerning the bonding provisions of subsection (19)(a) of this section, setting forth bonding requirements, including but not limited to requirements for the amount, duration, release, and forfeiture of the bonds. All funds from the forfeiture of bonds required pursuant to this section shall be placed in the State Treasury and credited to a special trust and agency account which shall not lapse. The account shall be known as the "sewage treatment system rehabilitation fund" and all moneys placed in the fund shall be used for the elimination of nuisances and hazards created by sewage systems which were improperly built, operated, or maintained, and insofar as practicable be used to correct the problems at the same site for which the bond or other sureties were originally provided; and

(28) Promulgate administrative regulations not inconsistent with the provisions of law administered by the cabinet.

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