



COMMISSION MEMBERS:

CRAIG D. ROSWELL, *Chair*
KAREN D. MORGAN
MARIELA OLIVARES
JAMES N. ROBEY, JR.
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STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

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General Counsel
KATHERINE P. THOMPSON
Staff Counsel
ANA L. HENRY
Assistant General Counsel
PANSY S. WATSON
Assistant Counsel

MINUTES OF THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION MEETING

June 4, 2026

Commission Members Present: Craig D. Roswell, Chair
Karen D. Morgan
Mariela Olivares
James N. Robey, Jr.
Geneau M. Thames

Staff Members Present: Jennifer K. Allgair, Executive Director
William J. Colquhoun, General Counsel
Katherine P. Thompson, Staff Counsel
Ana L. Henry, Assistant General Counsel
Pansy S. Watson, Assistant Counsel
Darlene Brocki Gavel, Office Manager
Stephen Garrett, Paralegal
Maura Pizzi, Paralegal
Aida Canales, Paralegal
Maritza Garcia, Intern

The meeting convened at 9:13 a.m. at 45 Calvert Street, 3rd Floor conference room. Mr. Roswell acknowledges that Ms. Thames' appointment term ends at the end of June and expressed gratitude for her service on the Commission. Those listed as present participated in all portions of the meeting unless otherwise noted. If other individuals participated in aspects of the meeting, they will be identified in the specific line item where their participation occurred.

ITEM 1: Tentative Agenda

Discussion: The Commission reviewed the tentative agenda.

Decision: The tentative agenda was approved as adjusted.

ITEM 2: Minutes of March 26, 2026, Meeting

Discussion: The minutes of March 26, 2026, meeting were reviewed and discussed.

Decision: The draft minutes were approved.

ITEM 3: Annual Election of Chair (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027)

Decision: Mr. Roswell was unanimously elected chair for a one-year term.

ITEM 4: Financial Disclosure Additions and Deletions

Discussion: Ms. Allgair presented a listing of the proposed additions and deletions to the financial disclosure list recommended by State agencies and reviewed by Financial Disclosure Administrator, Young Smith and Executive Director, Jennifer Allgair. The recommendations covered the Historic St. Mary's City Commission, Election Board-Baltimore County, Baltimore City Community College, State Highway Administration, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Education, Department of Human Services, Department of Health, Attorney General's Office, Department of Information Technology, Maryland Insurance Administration, University of Maryland College Park, University of Baltimore, Maryland Port Administration, Frostburg State University, Maryland Transit Administration, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, College of Southern Maryland, Maryland Energy Administration, Montgomery College, University of Maryland Global Campus, Department of Housing & Community Development, Howard Community College, University of Maryland Baltimore and the Food Center Authority.

Decision: The Commission approved Ms. Allgair's recommendations on financial disclosure position additions and deletions.

ITEM 5: Executive Unit Determinations and Financial Disclosure Exemption Requests

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on whether or not the following entities created during the 2026 legislative session should be considered executive units covered by the Public Ethics Law and whether or not appointees to these entities would be exempt from the financial disclosure requirement:

1. Workgroup on Transportation Contract Approval Authority: (HB 587, CH 408)
2. Real Estate Advisory Committee: (HB 1557, CH 368)
3. Workgroup for an Inclusive State Workplace: (HB 1248, CH 386)
4. Digital Asset and Blockchain Technology Task Force: (SB 376/HB 470) –
5. Workgroup on Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization: (SB39, CH 218)
6. Health Quality Improvement Initiative Task Force: (HB 945, CH 684)
7. Commission on Re-Imagining Healthcare: (HB 1367, CH 244)
8. Commission on the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children: (SB776/HB 552, CH 607 & 608)
9. Task Force to Study Deed Fraud: (HB 130, CH 399)
10. Advisory Council on Maryland's System of Care for Children, Youth and Families (HB1559, CH 160)
11. Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV) Recreation Oversight Board: (SB 480, CH180)
12. Suitland Development Authority: (HB 1452, CH 458)
13. Maryland 3-1-1 Oversight Board in the Maryland Information Network: (SB 114, CH434)
14. Maryland's Future Board: (SB 770/HB 1473, CH 377 & 378)
15. Board of Directors for the Baltimore Core Transit Service: (SB 947/HB 1081, CH 419 & 420)

16. Commuter Services Advisory Board: (SB 947/HB 1081, CH 419 & 420)
17. State Center Advisory Group: (SB 818, CH 390)
18. Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program Workgroup: (SB 529)
19. Maryland Health Centralization Commission: (HB 1372, CH 368)
20. Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures: (HB 1142, CH 17)
21. Maryland AI Education Collaborative on Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education:(SB 720, CH 634)

Discussion: The Commission determined the following were executive units covered by the Public Ethics Law and granted financial disclosure exemptions for the:

1. Workgroup on Transportation Contract Approval Authority: (HB 587, CH 408)
2. Real Estate Advisory Committee: (HB 1557, CH 368)
3. Workgroup for an Inclusive State Workplace: (HB 1248, CH 386)
4. Digital Asset and Blockchain Technology Task Force: (SB 376/HB 470) –
5. Workgroup on Behavioral Health Rate Methodology Modernization: (SB39, CH 218)
6. Health Quality Improvement Initiative Task Force: (HB 945, CH 684)
7. Commission on Re-Imagining Healthcare: (HB 1367, CH 244)
8. Commission on the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children: (SB776/HB 552, CH 607 & 608)
9. Task Force to Study Deed Fraud: (HB 130, CH 399)
10. Advisory Council on Maryland’s System of Care for Children, Youth and Families (HB1559, CH 160)
11. Off-Highway Recreational Vehicle (OHRV) Recreation Oversight Board: (SB 480, CH180)

The Commission determined the following were executive units covered by the Public Ethics Law and would require financial disclosure:

1. Suitland Development Authority: (HB 1452, CH 458)
2. Maryland 3-1-1 Oversight Board in the Maryland Information Network: (SB 114, CH434)
3. Maryland’s Future Board: (SB 770/HB 1473, CH 377 & 378)
4. Board of Directors for the Baltimore Core Transit Service: (SB 947/HB 1081, CH 419 & 420)
5. Commuter Services Advisory Board: (SB 947/HB 1081, CH 419 & 420)

The Commission determined that the following were not executive units covered by the Public Ethics Law:

1. State Center Advisory Group: (SB 818, CH 390)
2. Southern Maryland Early College Teacher Pathway Program Workgroup: (SB 529)
3. Maryland Health Centralization Commission: (HB 1372, CH 368)
4. Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures: (HB 1142, CH 17)
5. Maryland AI Education Collaborative on Artificial Intelligence in K-12 Education:(SB 720, CH 634)

ITEM 6: Executive Director’s Report - Restructuring of Department of Natural Resources Forest Conservancy Boards

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on the restructuring of Department of Natural Resources Forest Conservancy Boards will be combined into four regional forest conservancy boards to replace the twenty-four county boards.

ITEM 7: Executive Director's Report – New Server

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on receiving the information from DoIT for a new server to house the updated online training modules.

ITEM 8: Executive Director's Report – Elected Officials' Manual Audits

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on the staff conducting manual audits on all elected officials' and candidates' financial disclosure statements as a backup to the automated audit.

ITEM 9: Executive Director's Report – Lobbyist System Update Review

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on the staff's testing of the lobbying system which has been updated to follow DoIT's security guidance.

ITEM 10: Update on Schedule for Proposed Amendments to the Commission's Regulations

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on the status of proposed amendments to the Commission's regulations on Blind Trusts (COMAR 19A.06) and add a new chapter to the subtitle concerning the Governor's blind trust requirements which include: 19A.06.01.02 – Blind Trusts - Applicability and Definitions, 19A.06.02. – Blind Trusts - Criteria for Certification, 19A.06.03 – Blind Trusts - Procedural Requirements, and 9A.06.04 – Blind Trusts – Governor's Requirements. The proposed regulations were published in the Maryland Register on March 20, 2026. The Commission did not receive any public comments on the proposed regulations during the 30-day comment period. The proposed regulation amendments are ready to be considered for final adoption by the Commission.

Decision: The Commission approved the proposed regulations for final adoption on July 6, 2026 as long as no changes were made by the final review committee.

A motion was made by Craig Roswell and seconded by James Robey to close the meeting to the public pursuant to §3-305(b)(13) of the Open Meetings Act to consider confidential advice matters and enforcement matters per §5-303 and §5-407 of the Public Ethics Law, and to receive the advice of counsel pursuant to §3-305(b)(7) of the Open Meetings Act. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of closing the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

ITEM 11: Informal Matter – Memo on Non-Participation Plans and Mitigation Agreements

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun presented seven non-participation agreements or mitigation agreements provided and approved of by the staff. The matters included 26-0257, 26-0384, 26-0402, 26-0403, 26-0470, 26-0453 and 26-0492.

ITEM 12: Informal Matter – Sheriff's Office (26-0454)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a participation matter regarding the hiring of an individual's qualifying relative at a Sheriff's Office.

Decision: The Commission determined that the hiring was not inconsistent with the Public Ethics Law, subject to certain restrictions.

ITEM 13: Informal Matter – Maryland Health Care Commission (26-0508)

Discussion: Ms. Watson briefed the Commission on a participation exception regarding an employee with the Maryland Health Care Commission requesting to participate in matters involving a qualifying relative's employer.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this participation.

ITEM 14: Informal Matter – Secondary Employment Requests

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on secondary employment requests regarding employees in the Department of Health working at an entity that is regulated by the Department or has a business relationship with the Department. The matters included: 26-0417, 26-0424, 26-0426, 26-0429, 26-0436, 26-0437, 26-0439, 26-0445, 26-0456, 26-0459, 26-0461, 26-0469, 26-0484, 26-0487, 26-0490, 26-0521, 26-0523, 26-0524, 26-0526, 26-0533, 26-0535, 26-0536, 26-0538, 26-0549, 26-0555, 26-0573, 26-0575, 26-0577, 26-0578, 26-0607, 26-0610, 26-0617, 26-0618, 26-0619, 26-0622, 26-0625, 26-0628, 26-0630, 26-0631, 26-0632, 26-0636

Decision: The Commission granted exceptions to allow secondary employment for all matters.

ITEM 15: Informal Matter – Maryland Department of Health (26-0637)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee at the Maryland Department of Health working for an entity that does business with the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 16: Informal Matter – Department of Human Services (26-0592)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee at the Department of Human Services working at an entity that accepts benefits from the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 17: Informal Matter – Department of Human Services (26-0600)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee at the Department of Human Services working at an entity that accepts benefits from the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 18: Informal Matter – Maryland Department of Health (26-0606)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee at the Maryland Department of Health working at an entity regulated by the Department.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 19: Informal Matter – Department of Natural Resources (26-0640)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a secondary employment request regarding an employee at the Department of Natural Resources working at an entity that does business with his agency.

Decision: The Commission granted an exception to allow this secondary employment.

ITEM 20: Informal Matter – Elected Official (26-0641)

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on a matter involving an elected official authoring a book.

Decision: The Commission determined the secondary employment was allowable subject to certain restrictions.

ITEM 21: Informal Matter – TEDCO (26-0566)

Discussion: Ms. Henry briefed the Commission on a post-employment advice request regarding an employee at TEDCO who wanted to work for an entity that might enter into a contract with the agency.

Decision: The Commission determined that it could only give general advice at this time and the employee should return for additional advice at a later date.

ITEM 22: Informal Matter – Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services (26-0491)

Discussion: Ms. Henry briefed the Commission on whether events can take place near a Department of Public Safety & Correctional Services employee's qualifying relative's business.

Decision: The Commission determined that holding the events at those locations was not inconsistent with the Public Ethics Law. Ms. Thompson, Mr. Colquhoun, Ms. Watson, Ms. Pizzi, and Mr. Garrett did not participate in the discussion or decision of this matter.

ITEM 23: Informal Matter – Blind Trust Update

Discussion: Mr. Colquhoun briefed the Commission on the status of the Governor's blind trust.

ITEM 24: 2026 Legislative Update

Discussion: Ms. Allgair briefed the Commission on after-session action plans for several bills that affect the Commission's operations, including HB 269/SB 80 (CH 102, 103) and HB 226/SB 22 (CH 89,90).

ITEM 25: A-8-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission declined to issue the complaint and the matter will be closed.

ITEM 26: A-9-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will remain on the Preliminary Consideration Docket.

ITEM 27: A-17-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-10-26)

ITEM 28: A-18-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will remain on the Preliminary Consideration Docket.

ITEM 29: A-20-26 & A-21-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on these matters.

Decision: These matters will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 30: A-22-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission declined to issue the complaint and the matter will be closed.

ITEM 31: A-23-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 32: A-24-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed.

ITEM 33: A-25-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission declined to issue the complaint and the matter will be referred to the appropriate agency.

ITEM 34: A-26-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will remain on the Preliminary Consideration Docket.

ITEM 35: A-27-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-11-26)

ITEM 36: A-28-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed.

ITEM 37: A-32-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-12-26)

ITEM 38: A-34-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will remain on the Preliminary Consideration Docket.

ITEM 39: A-35-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: A complaint will be issued in this matter. (C-3-26)

ITEM 40: A-36-36

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be placed on the Preliminary Inquiry Docket. (B-13-26)

ITEM 41: B-7-23 & B-8-23

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on these matters.

Decision: These matters will be closed with letters.

ITEM 42: B-1-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 43: B-2-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 44: B-3-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 45: B-6-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: A complaint will be issued in this matter. (C-2-26)

ITEM 46: B-7-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 47: B-8-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: This matter will be closed with a letter.

ITEM 48: C-8-25

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission accepted the Stipulation of Settlement Agreement.

ITEM 49: A-16-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on these matters.

Decision: The Commission accepted the Lobbyist Filing Agreement.

ITEM 50: A-19-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission accepted the Lobbyist Filing Agreement.

ITEM 51: A-29-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission accepted the Lobbyist Filing Agreement.

ITEM 52: A-30-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission accepted the Lobbyist Filing Agreement.

ITEM 53: A-31-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission accepted the Lobbyist Filing Agreement.

ITEM 54: A-33-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission accepted the Lobbyist Filing Agreement.

ITEM 55: A-40-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission accepted the Lobbyist Filing Agreement.

ITEM 56: A-37-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission authorized complaints in these matters.

ITEM 57: A-38-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission authorized complaints in these matters.

ITEM 58: C-1-26

Discussion: Ms. Thompson briefed the Commission on this matter.

Decision: The Commission accepted the late filing as a cure.

(Ms. Thompson, Ms. Allgair, Ms. Watson, Ms. Pizzi, and Mr. Garrett participated in the briefings to the Commission, but did not participate in the decisions regarding Items 25 through 58. Ms. Henry did not participate in the briefing or discussion of Item 43.)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.