



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2011

LCO No. 5800

SB0123905800SR0

Offered by:
SEN. RORABACK, 30th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 1239

File No.

Cal. No.

(As Amended by Senate Amendment Schedule "A")

**"AN ACT CONCERNING THE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM
ENDING JUNE 30, 2013."**

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) There is established the
4 Joint Office of Government Accountability and its members shall
5 include the Office of State Ethics, as established in section 1-80 of the
6 general statutes, as amended by this act, the State Elections
7 Enforcement Commission, as established in section 9-7a of the general
8 statutes, as amended by this act, and the Freedom of Information
9 Commission, as established in section 1-205 of the general statutes, as
10 amended by this act.

11 (b) The Joint Office of Government Accountability shall not be
12 construed to be a board or commission within the meaning of section
13 4-9a of the general statutes.

14 (c) Pursuant to sections 1-81a, 1-205a and 9-7c of the general statutes
15 and subsection (d) of section 502 of this act, the appropriations
16 recommended by each member of the Joint Office of Government
17 Accountability and the Government Accountability Business Board,
18 established pursuant to section 502 of this act, shall be the estimates of
19 expenditure requirements transmitted to the Secretary of the Office of
20 Policy and Management and the recommended adjustments and
21 revisions of such estimates shall be the recommended adjustments and
22 revisions, if any, transmitted by said members and business board to
23 the Office of Policy and Management. Notwithstanding any provision
24 of the general statutes, the Governor shall not reduce allotment
25 requisitions or allotments in force concerning the members and the
26 business board.

27 (d) The members of the Joint Office of Government Accountability
28 shall have independent decision-making authority and shall retain
29 autonomy with respect to the exercise of any quasi-judicial, rule-
30 making or regulatory authority, budgeting, licensing and policy-
31 making functions. With the exception of duties related to functions
32 provided by the Government Accountability Business Board, nothing
33 in this section shall be construed to limit, restrict or derogate any
34 power, right, authority, duty or responsibility of any member entity
35 contained in any other provision of the general statutes.

36 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective February 1, 2012*) (a) There is established a
37 Government Accountability Business Board which shall be responsible
38 for the business and fiscal affairs of the members of the Joint Office of
39 Government Accountability. The business board shall assess ways and
40 means to further streamline and improve the operation of said
41 business and fiscal affairs.

42 (b) Members of the business board shall be the executive director, or
43 his or her designee, of each of the following: The Office of State Ethics,
44 the Freedom of Information Commission and the State Elections
45 Enforcement Commission. A majority of the members of the business
46 board shall constitute a quorum and all actions shall require the

47 affirmative vote of a majority. Any consideration of a matter by the
48 business board, and any decision made pursuant to this section may be
49 made electronically, in writing or in a method determined by the
50 business board, but shall not be considered a "meeting" pursuant to
51 subdivision (2) of section 1-200 of the general statutes.

52 (c) The Government Accountability Business Board may employ
53 personnel and clerical assistance it may require for the discharge of its
54 duties, within the limits of its appropriated funds and in accordance
55 with procedures established by the business board.

56 (d) Notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes, the
57 appropriations recommended for the business board shall be the
58 estimates of expenditure requirements transmitted to the Secretary of
59 the Office of Policy and Management by the board and the
60 recommended adjustments and revisions of such estimates shall be the
61 recommended adjustments and revisions, if any, transmitted by the
62 board to the Office of Policy and Management. Notwithstanding any
63 provision of the general statutes, the Governor shall not reduce
64 allotment requisitions or allotments in force concerning the board.

65 (e) The Government Accountability Business Board shall not be
66 construed to be a board or commission within the meaning of section
67 4-9a of the general statutes.

68 Sec. 503. Subsection (a) of section 1-80 of the general statutes is
69 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
70 *1, 2011*):

71 (a) There shall be established, as a member of the Joint Office of
72 Government Accountability, an Office of State Ethics that shall be an
73 independent state agency and shall constitute a successor agency to the
74 State Ethics Commission, in accordance with the provisions of sections
75 4-38d and 4-39. Said office shall consist of an executive director,
76 general counsel, ethics enforcement officer and such other staff as
77 hired by the executive director. Within the Office of State Ethics, there
78 shall be the Citizen's Ethics Advisory Board that shall consist of nine

79 members, appointed as follows: One member shall be appointed by the
80 speaker of the House of Representatives, one member by the president
81 pro tempore of the Senate, one member by the majority leader of the
82 Senate, one member by the minority leader of the Senate, one member
83 by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, one member by
84 the minority leader of the House of Representatives, and three
85 members by the Governor. Members of the board shall serve for four-
86 year terms which shall commence on October 1, 2005, except that
87 members first appointed shall have the following terms: The Governor
88 shall appoint two members for a term of three years and one member
89 for a term of four years; the majority leader of the House of
90 Representatives, minority leader of the House of Representatives and
91 the speaker of the House of Representatives shall each appoint one
92 member for a term of two years; the president pro tempore of the
93 Senate, the majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of the
94 Senate shall each appoint one member for a term of four years. No
95 individual shall be appointed to more than one four-year term as a
96 member of the board, provided, members may not continue in office
97 once their term has expired and members first appointed may not be
98 reappointed. No more than five members shall be members of the
99 same political party. The members appointed by the majority leader of
100 the Senate and the majority leader of the House of Representatives
101 shall be selected from a list of nominees proposed by a citizen group
102 having an interest in ethical government. The majority leader of the
103 Senate and the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall
104 each determine the citizen group from which each will accept such
105 nominations. One member appointed by the Governor shall be
106 selected from a list of nominees proposed by a citizen group having an
107 interest in ethical government. The Governor shall determine the
108 citizen group from which the Governor will accept such nominations.

109 Sec. 504. Subsection (a) of section 1-205 of the general statutes is
110 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
111 *1, 2011*):

112 (a) There shall be established, as a member of the Joint Office of

113 Government Accountability, a Freedom of Information Commission
114 consisting of five members appointed by the Governor, with the advice
115 and consent of either house of the General Assembly, who shall serve
116 for terms of four years from the July first of the year of their
117 appointment, except that of the members appointed prior to and
118 serving on July 1, 1977, one shall serve for a period of six years from
119 July 1, 1975, one shall serve for a period of four years from July 1, 1975,
120 and one shall serve for a period of six years from July 1, 1977. Of the
121 two new members first appointed after July 1, 1977, one shall serve
122 from the date of such appointment until June 30, 1980, and one shall
123 serve from the date of such appointment until June 30, 1982. No more
124 than three members shall be members of the same political party.

125 Sec. 505. Subsection (a) of section 9-7a of the general statutes is
126 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
127 *1, 2011*):

128 (a) There is established, as a member of the Joint Office of
129 Government Accountability, a State Elections Enforcement
130 Commission to consist of five members, not more than two of whom
131 shall be members of the same political party and at least one of whom
132 shall not be affiliated with any political party. Of the members first
133 appointed hereunder, one shall be appointed by the minority leader of
134 the House of Representatives and shall hold office for a term of one
135 year from July 1, 1974; one shall be appointed by the minority leader of
136 the Senate and shall hold office for a term of three years from said July
137 first; one shall be appointed by the speaker of the House of
138 Representatives and shall hold office for a term of one year from said
139 July first; one shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the
140 Senate and shall hold office for a term of three years from said July
141 first, and one shall be appointed by the Governor, provided that such
142 member shall not be affiliated with any political party, and shall hold
143 office for a term of five years from said July first. Thereafter, members
144 shall be appointed for terms of five years from July first in the year of
145 their appointment and shall be appointed by the person holding the
146 same office as was held by the person making the original

147 appointment, provided any person chosen to fill a vacancy shall be
148 appointed only for the unexpired term of the member whom he shall
149 succeed. All appointments shall be made with the consent of the state
150 Senate and House of Representatives, provided the initial appointees
151 may serve without confirmation from July 1, 1974, subject to approval
152 at the next regular session of the General Assembly. No person who
153 has served within the previous three years as a public official, other
154 than a member of the State Elections Enforcement Commission, or who
155 has served within the previous three years as a political party officer,
156 shall be appointed to membership on the commission. For purposes of
157 this subsection the term "public official" means an individual who
158 holds or has held a state, district or municipal office as defined in
159 section 9-372 but shall not include a justice of the peace or a notary
160 public and the term "political party officer" means an officer or
161 member of a national committee of a political party, state central or
162 town committee, or any person employed by any such committee for
163 compensation. The commission shall elect one of its members to serve
164 as chairperson and another member to serve as vice-chairperson. Each
165 member of the commission shall be compensated at the rate of two
166 hundred dollars per day for any day on which he participates in a
167 regular commission meeting or hearing, and shall be paid by the state
168 for his reasonable expenses, including necessary stenographic and
169 clerical help."