



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
HOUSE OF DELEGATES
RICHMOND

WILLIAM J. HOWELL
SPEAKER

TWENTY-EIGHTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
RULES (CHAIRMAN)

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Speaker Howell Appoints Members of Special Subcommittee on Ethics Reform

-- Fulfills Pledge to Lead Examination of Legislative Ethics Inquiry Process --

RICHMOND, VA – Fulfilling his pledge from November 24, 2009 to lead the examination of state legislative ethics inquiries, Speaker William J. Howell (R-Stafford) today announced the creation of a special Subcommittee on Ethics to develop an update to the General Assembly's conflict of interest rules. As part of the duties and responsibilities of his office, Speaker Howell serves as chair of the House Rules Committee. At today's meeting of the Committee, Speaker Howell appointed a special subcommittee and referred to it all bills introduced in the House relating to conflicts of interest.

"The 16 bills introduced to date are evidence of a genuine bi-partisan commitment to strengthening the conflict of interest rules for both chambers," noted Speaker Howell. "Five Republican and three Democratic members have introduced bills. Appointing a special subcommittee to consider all of these proposals will ensure that good ideas are combined and enhanced in a final proposal to be considered by the full House."

Speaker Howell appointed the following members to the Special Ethics Subcommittee: Delegates Robert B. Bell (R-Albemarle), chair; R. Steven Landes (R-Augusta); M. Kirkland Cox (R-Colonial Heights); R. Lee Ware (R-Powhatan); William R. Janis (R-Henrico); Ward L. Armstrong (D-Henry) and Kenneth C. Alexander (D-Norfolk).

"I'm pleased to have so many well-respected, senior members of the House working on this subcommittee, including Minority Leader Armstrong," remarked Howell. "All of these members not only have the commitment to good government and the practical knowledge necessary to craft strong yet sensible legislation in this area for the entire General Assembly, but also the respect of their colleagues to ensure its passage."

Delegate Bell, the chair of the new subcommittee, said, "I'm honored to lead this important effort for the House to reassure Virginians that each delegate represents the district he or she serves, free from any conflict with personal interests."

William J. Howell is the 54th Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates and has led the 100-member chamber since 2003. First elected a delegate in 1987, he represents the 28th House District, which includes parts of Stafford County and the City of Fredericksburg. As Speaker, Howell performs a number of duties, including assigning all bills to House committees and appointing the chairs and members of each of the 14 standing committees of the House. More information about Speaker Howell is available on his website – www.williamjhowell.org.

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