

26.1 54.5 The committee may make employment rules and regulations. In case of violation of
26.2 an order of the committee by an employee, or in case of a violation of a rule or regulation made
26.3 by the committee, or in case of misconduct or omission by an employee, the Committee on Rules
26.4 and Administration may hear complaints and discharge the employee or impose discipline, a fine,
26.5 or other punishment upon the employee. The committee may, by a vote of a majority of the
26.6 members of the committee, discuss an employee disciplinary proceeding under this rule in an
26.7 executive session to which the open meeting requirements of Rules 12.1 to 12.3 do not apply.

26.8 54.6 The Secretary shall supervise the employees under the direction of the Committee on
26.9 Rules and Administration.

26.10 **55. SUBCOMMITTEE ON ETHICAL CONDUCT**

26.11 55.1 The Committee on Rules and Administration shall appoint a Subcommittee on Ethical
26.12 Conduct of the Committee on Rules and Administration consisting of four members, two from the
26.13 majority group and two from the minority group.

26.14 55.2 The subcommittee shall serve in an advisory capacity to a member or employee upon
26.15 written request and shall issue recommendations to the member or employee. A member may
26.16 request the subcommittee to provide its advice on a potential conflict of interest to the member in
26.17 private. If so requested, the subcommittee shall conduct its proceedings on the advisory opinion
26.18 in private. The request, proceedings on the request, and any advice given by the subcommittee
26.19 in response to the request must remain private. The member may not use an advisory opinion
26.20 from the subcommittee as a defense to a complaint under this rule unless the opinion has been
26.21 adopted by the subcommittee at a public meeting.

26.22 55.3 The subcommittee shall investigate a complaint made in writing by a member of the
26.23 Senate under oath. The complaint must be received before adjournment sine die in the last year of
26.24 a senate term or during a special session held after that time regarding improper conduct by a
26.25 member or employee of the Senate. The subcommittee has the powers of a standing committee
26.26 to issue subpoenas under Minnesota Statutes, section 3.153.

26.27 55.4 Within 30 calendar days after receiving a complaint, the subcommittee must meet and
26.28 either make a finding of no probable cause, vote to defer action until a certain time, or proceed
26.29 with its investigation.

26.30 55.5 In order to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that improper conduct
26.31 has occurred, the subcommittee may, by a vote of three of its members, conduct a preliminary
26.32 inquiry in executive session to which the open meeting requirements of Rules 12.1 to 12.3 do
26.33 not apply. The executive session may be ordered by a vote of three of its members whenever
26.34 the subcommittee determines that matters relating to probable cause are likely to be discussed.

27.1 The executive session must be limited to matters relating to probable cause. Upon a finding of
27.2 probable cause, further proceedings on the complaint are open to the public.

27.3 55.6 The subcommittee may appoint special counsel to provide expert advice on how
27.4 to conduct its proceedings. The subcommittee may appoint a suitable person to conduct the
27.5 investigation and report findings of fact and recommendations for action to the subcommittee.

27.6 55.7 If, after investigation, the subcommittee finds the complaint substantiated by the
27.7 evidence, it shall recommend to the Committee on Rules and Administration appropriate
27.8 disciplinary action.

27.9 55.8 To minimize disruption of its public proceedings, the subcommittee may require that
27.10 television coverage be pooled or be provided by Senate media services.

27.11 55.9 If criminal proceedings relating to the same conduct have begun, the subcommittee
27.12 may defer its proceedings until the criminal proceedings have been completed.

27.13 55.10 The Senate intends that proceedings of the Subcommittee on Ethical Conduct not be
27.14 admissible in any criminal proceeding.

27.15 **56. STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT**

27.16 56.1 Members shall adhere to the highest standard of ethical conduct as embodied in the
27.17 Minnesota Constitution, state law, and these rules.

27.18 56.2 A member shall not publish or distribute written material if the member knows or
27.19 has reason to know that the material includes any statement that is false or clearly misleading,
27.20 concerning a public policy issue or concerning the member's or another member's voting record
27.21 or position on a public policy issue.

27.22 56.3 Improper conduct includes conduct that violates a rule or administrative policy of the
27.23 Senate, that violates accepted norms of Senate behavior, that betrays the public trust, or that tends
27.24 to bring the Senate into dishonor or disrepute.

27.25 56.4 Members of the Senate shall disclose potential conflicts of interest in the discharge of
27.26 senatorial duties as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 10A.07.

27.27 **57. LOBBYISTS**

27.28 57.1 A lobbyist shall not appear before a Senate committee pursuant to the lobbyist's
27.29 employment unless the lobbyist is in compliance with the law requiring lobbyist registration,
27.30 Minnesota Statutes, sections 10A.03 to 10A.06. A lobbyist, when appearing before a committee,
27.31 shall disclose to the committee on whose behalf the lobbyist speaks and the purpose of the
27.32 lobbyist's appearance.