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Ethics Committee Recommends Formal Hearing on Misconduct Allegations Against Senator Bolques Jr.

The Committee on Ethical Conduct has recommended a formal hearing to address serious allegations against Senator Bolques Jr., including harassment, financial mismanagement, and a hostile work environment, following a preliminary investigation.

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Senator Angel Bolques Jr. By. V.I. LEGISLATURE.

The 36th Legislature's Committee on Ethical Conduct (CEC) has recommended a formal hearing be held to address a complaint filed against Senator At-Large Angel Bolques Jr., marking a critical development in an ongoing ethics investigation.

The recommendation, issued through an Advisory Opinion delivered to Senate President Milton E. Potter on May 30, follows the conclusion of the Committee's preliminary inquiry. The CEC determined by majority vote that "based on a preponderance of the evidence reviewed," the allegations warrant formal proceedings.

As a result, a Statement of Allegations will now be drafted, and a hearing is expected to be scheduled within two to three weeks, in accordance with the Legislature's Rules. Additional steps will proceed following the conclusion of that hearing.

The investigation stems from a formal complaint received by the Senate President on March 28, 2025, in which a staff member accused Senator Bolques of ongoing misconduct and unethical behavior. The complaint outlined serious workplace concerns, including allegations of harassment, financial mismanagement, and the creation of a hostile work environment.

Shortly after receiving the complaint, the Committee on Ethical Conduct issued a public statement on April 15 announcing its formation and membership, while committing to render an Advisory Opinion within 30 days. However, on April 29, the Committee extended the deadline to May 30 to ensure a thorough and fair review process.

The Advisory Opinion submitted to the Senate President includes multiple key sections:

- A summary of the allegations against Senator Bolques
- A timeline and account of procedural developments
- The standard of review applied during the administrative process
- Details on the Committee's investigative methods and findings, including interviews with both current and former staff and other stakeholders
- An overview of the administrative basis for the Committee's actions
- Final recommendations and conclusions

The Committee emphasized in its findings that all misconduct allegations are treated with the utmost seriousness, and reinforced its responsibility to foster a safe, respectful, and equitable workplace.

Senator Kenneth Gittens, who chairs the Committee, stated, "We understand the importance of this matter and are committed to ensuring that the process is fair and that all parties are afforded due process. The public can be assured that the CEC will conduct the upcoming hearing with integrity and in accordance with the highest standards of ethical responsibility."

Senator Dwayne DeGraff, Vice Chair of the Committee and Senate Minority Leader, also praised the Committee members for their impartiality and commitment. "We recognize the gravity of the situation, and the public trust placed in this Committee. We will continue to support a transparent, fair, and fact-driven process," he said.

