N.C. ETHICS



COMMISSION

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House Bill 1025: TAC Members (MPOs & RPOs)

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URGENT NOTICE: MPO & RPO TAC MEMBERS SUBJECT TO FINES/PROSECUTION

HOUSE BILL 1025 (SL 2014-58)

On July 7, 2014, the Governor signed House Bill (HB) 1025 into law. Section 12 of HB 1025 establishes monetary penalties and possible criminal sanctions for Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and Rural Planning Organizations (RPO) who fail to comply with mandatory filing and disclosure requirements. It is effective October 1, 2014.

MPO and RPO TAC Members Will Be Assessed Penalties and Face Possible Criminal Sanctions If They Fail to Timely File a Complete Statement of Economic Interest (SEI) <u>and</u> a Complete Real Estate Disclosure Form.

- 1. All MPO and RPO TAC members, and their alternates or designees, must file with the State Ethics Commission both an SEI and a Real Estate Disclosure Form which requires the member to list all real estate owned wholly or in part by the member, the member's extended family, or a business with which the member is associated within the jurisdiction of the MPO or RPO on which the member is serving.
- 2. MPO and RPO TAC members, and their alternates or designees, must file their SEI and Real Estate Disclosure Form annually by April 15th.
- 3. Failure to timely file a complete SEI will result in a \$250 fine.
- 4. Failure to timely file a complete SEI within 60 days of receipt of notice of failure to file or complete shall be a Class 1 Misdemeanor, and the Commission shall report such failure to the appropriate authorities for investigation and possible prosecution.
- 5. Failure to timely file a complete Real Estate Disclosure Form will result in another \$250 fine.
- 6. Thus, the total amount of fines can equal \$500 for the failure to timely file both forms.
- 7. Failure to timely file a complete Real Estate Disclosure Form within 60 days of receipt of notice of failure to file or complete shall be a Class 1 Misdemeanor, and the Commission shall report such failure to the appropriate authorities for investigation and possible prosecution.
- **8.** The new changes take effect October 1, 2014.

The Ethics Commission will be providing much more information over the next several months.

For questions about the SEI and Real Estate Disclosure Form, please contact the State Ethics Commission's SEI Unit at 919-715-2071 or <u>sei@doa.nc.gov.</u>