

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE ETHICS
JULY 25, 2025
9:00 AM

HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

[9:04:20 AM](#)

1. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Conner Thomas called the House Subcommittee meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Roll Call

Representative Alyse Galvin
Representative Jeremy Bynum
Chair Conner Thomas
Joyce Anderson
Deb Fancher
Carl White
Skip Cook

There was a quorum.

Others

Administrator Kevin Reeve
Jacqueline Yeagle

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Thomas entertained a motion to approve the agenda. Deb Fancher so moved. There were no objections. The house subcommittee approved the agenda.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

[9:06:32 AM](#)

4. INTRODUCTION OF COMPLAINT H 25-01

Chair Conner Thomas asked the administrator to address the criteria for acceptability of a complaint:

The administrator reported that Complaint H 25-01 meets the following criteria:

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1. The complaint is notarized.
2. The complaint is filed against a person covered by the Legislative Ethics Act.
3. The complaint is timely.
4. The complaint has not been filed during a campaign period pursuant to AS 24.60.170.
5. The complaint references specific statutes under the Legislative Ethics Act AS 24.60.

Chair Conner Thomas summarized Complaint H 25-01:

1. Conflict of interest (AS 24.60.030(e)(3), AS 39.52.110)
 - a. Kopp's firm, Winfluence Strategies, received \$100,000-\$200,000 from the AFL-CIO in 2024 for consulting services, constituting a substantial "financial interest" (AS 24.60.030(j)(3)).
 - b. Kopp authored and voted for HB 78 (2024), which enhances public employee collective bargaining and retirement benefits, directly benefiting unions such as ASEA/AFSCME and AFL-CIO.
 - c. HB 78's passage likely strengthens AFL-CIO's position, potentially securing future contracts for Winfluence Strategies, providing a "substantial benefit" greater than that to union members generally (AS 24.60.030(j)(2)).
 - d. These actions were not required by Uniform Rules, violating AS 24.60.030(a)(3).
 - e. Violation: By authoring and voting for HB 78, Kopp used his legislative position to advance his financial interests, contravening AS 24.60.030(e)(3). This conduct also violates AS 39.52.110, which prohibits state officials from using their office for personal gain beyond authorized compensation.
2. Failure to Disclose or Recuse (AS 24.60.030(g), AS 24.60.080)
 - a. Kopp did not disclose his AFL-CIO income or recuse himself from HB 78 authorship, voting, or related legislative actions, despite a clear conflict.
 - b. As a civilian, Kopp threatened then-Rules Chair Craig Johnson: "If you do not bring this bill to the floor, I will run against you," implying union support would ensure his victory in the 34th Legislature, enabling HB 78 authorship.
 - c. No evidence indicates Kopp sought Ethics Committee guidance or filed disclosures under AS 24.60.030(g).

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- d. Violation: Kopp's failure to disclose or recuse violates AS 24.60.030(g), which mandates disclosure and recusal for conflicted votes, and AS 24.60.080, which requires mitigation of conflicts, including abstaining from sponsorship or coercive actions.
- 3. Appearance of Impropriety (AS 24.60.010, AS 39.52.010)
 - a. Kopp's 2024 campaign received \$21,350.00 from 19 union PACs (62.7% of \$34,068.13 total income), including \$1,000 from the Alaska AFL-CIO Gaming Account (09/16/2024).
 - b. The threat to Johnson and use of the 34th Legislature's binding caucus to secure HB 78's passage suggest a donor-driven agenda.
 - c. Public distrust, evidenced by Representative Kevin McCabe's House floor objection and
 - d. Must Read Alaska (May 13, 2025), reflects perceived impropriety.
 - e. Violation: Kopp's actions create a significant appearance of impropriety, breaching AS 24.60.010's mandate to uphold legislative integrity and AS 39.52.010's requirement to maintain public trust.
- 4. Misuse of Leadership Authority (AS 24.60.050(a), AS 39.52.120)
 - a. As Majority Leader, Kopp influenced the House agenda, committee assignments, and debates, prioritizing HB 78.
 - b. He leveraged the 34th Legislature's binding caucus to ensure HB 78's passage, amplifying union influence.
 - c. The threat to Johnson indicates coercive use of leadership to secure legislative outcomes tied to his financial interests.
 - d. Violation: Kopp's actions violate AS 24.60.050(a), which requires impartial leadership, and AS 39.52.120, which prohibits misuse of official position to influence outcomes for personal gain.

Chair Conner Thomas reported Representative Chuck Kopp was online. His attorney, Scott Kendall, was in the room to address the committee.

[9:18:17 AM](#)

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Scott Kendall stated that he is representing Representative Chuck Kopp, who has waived confidentiality of this frivolous complaint containing a variety of allegations.

Scott Kendall asserted that Representative Chuck Kopp's actions exemplify compliance with the law. Representative Chuck Kopp consulted with Ethics Committee staff and followed the advice. Ironically, the exhibits in the complaint are based on actions taken by Representative Chuck Kopp in complying with the law including his financial filings and public conflict of interest disclosures.

The allegations lack merit and substance. Some allegations pertain to breaches of other laws; one refers to actions taken by Representative Chuck Kopp before he assumed his current position as legislator, a time period for which the committee has no jurisdiction. Some complaint exhibits contradict themselves. For instance, Representative Chuck Kopp's own financial disclosures are cited as evidence of a lack of transparency in financial matters. The complainant references historical instances where Representative Chuck Kopp followed the law by declaring a conflict of interest and requesting to abstain.

The complainant is in violation of the law. Their own exhibits demonstrate this. While the complainant is entitled to their opinion of Representative Chuck Kopp, they are not entitled to misuse the process. In Scott Kendall's opinion, the complaint should be dismissed, and the committee should report it as a crime of false accusation as required by law.

Chair Conner Thomas inquired whether Representative Chuck Kopp wished to speak.

Representative Chuck Kopp said he believes the allegation is entirely untrue. The complaint also alleged he was a sponsor of HB 78. That is not the case. He said he fully supports Scott Kendall's statement.

Deb Fancher disclosed she had a long time personal relationship with Representative Chuck Kopp.

Representative Alyse Galvin disclosed she was a supporter of Representative Chuck Kopp's campaign for legislature.

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Chair Conner Thomas stated that although the subject has waived confidentiality, the Subcommittee's deliberations and action on the complaint remain confidential until later today or at a future meeting. Only committee members and staff are allowed in executive session.

5. Chair Thomas entertained a **MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION** *to discuss matters which by law must remain confidential under AS 24.60.160, Uniform Rule 22(b) regarding executive sessions, and Rules of Procedure Section 5: Executive Sessions and discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a governmental unit, and discussion of subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of a person.*

Joyce Anderson so moved. There were no objections. The house subcommittee moved into executive session.

[9:36:55 AM](#)

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

[9:36:55 AM](#)

Recess

[10:57:38 AM](#)

7. PUBLIC SESSION

Chair Thomas reported the subcommittee dismissed, in its entirety and by majority vote, Complaint H 25-01 against Representative Chuck Kopp.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. ADJOURN

Chair Thomas entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deb Fancher so moved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

[10:58:42 AM](#)

ADJOURN