

TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

P.O. Box 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910 • (512) 463-0784

May 2, 2008

Dear House Members:

You may have become aware of media reports questioning whether hiring practices have taken place in the House of Representatives where an employee who is not working full time (forty hours per week) is designated by the employing authority on the House payroll as a full time employee. Such conduct, if it occurs, would be a violation of House policy and applicable state statutes.

Under the rules of the House, the individual House member is solely responsible for the hiring and supervision of their own employees. [HR No. 2, 80th(R), Section 4.03(a) and (b)]. A committee chair is likewise solely responsible for the employees under their purview. Though members have this authority, it would not be within the discretion of any state employer, including a House member or committee chair, to award benefits to an employee outside of those authorized by law.

Full time employees receive certain benefits, including retirement benefits, which do not accrue to the benefit of part time employees to the same extent. Designating a state employee as a forty hour per week employee, when the employee is in fact not a forty hour per week employee, brings discredit on the House and undermines the financial structure of the Employees Retirement System of Texas.

The General Investigating & Ethics Committee of the House is currently investigating the issue. I would ask that you review your individual employee designations and work assignments and make sure you are in compliance with House policy and state law. If I can assist you in any way, please call on me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tony Goolsby". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tony Goolsby

REP. TONY GOOLSBY, CHAIRMAN, REP. HELEN GIDDINGS, VICE CHAIR
CHARLES "DOC" ANDERSON, DREW DARBY, JUAN ESCOBAR, LINDA HARPER-BROWN, DONNA HOWARD
DEBBIE RIDDLE, HUBERT VO, WILLIAM "BILL" ZEDLER, JOHN ZERWAS