



Larry Phillips
Chair

Brandon Creighton
Vice Chair

Committee Members

Kevin Bailey
Harold V. Dutton, Jr.
Ken Paxton

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Committee on General Investigating & Ethics

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Doise Miers (512) 463-0780

Statement from Chairman Larry Phillips on full-time House employees

AUSTIN - On April 7, 2008, Speaker Tom Craddick's office notified the House General Investigating & Ethics Committee that issues had been raised concerning the possibility of House members designating persons as full-time employees who are in fact only working part-time. Designating a state employee full-time, when the employee is in fact not full-time, is a serious matter and warrants a full investigation.

The House General Investigating & Ethics Committee has jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the conduct and ethical standards of House members and House employees [Rules of the Texas House, Rule 3, Sec 17]. The committee is specifically authorized to investigate the expenditure of public funds [Tex Govt Code, § 301.020(a)(3)], and it has the authority to request and receive assistance in its investigation from the state auditor and the attorney general [Tex Govt Code, § 301.028]. As chairman of this committee, I will be utilizing that assistance in the investigation of this matter.

-30-