



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0135

To: Commissioners
From: Martha Currier, Assistant Director
Date: September 17, 2026
Re: Michelle Tucker Waiver Request for Late-Filing of Personal Financial Disclosure

Michelle Tucker is a 2026 candidate for House of Representatives District 54. Legislative candidates for the general election, who are not incumbents, were required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure (PFD) by August 17, 2026. This is a report on the sources of income received by a candidate, legislator, or other official during the previous calendar year. After the deadline, Commission staff notified the candidate that the PFD was overdue and (later) that she was subject to a preliminary penalty of \$100 penalty based on her failure to file the report. Ms. Tucker ultimately submitted the PFD about one month late with the assistance of Commission staff on September 16, 2026. She seeks a waiver of the \$100 penalty.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

1 M.R.S. § 1016-C requires that all legislative candidates, except those currently in the Legislature, file a report no later than 5:00 p.m. on August 15 before the general election unless they withdraw from the election by that date. Legislators filed their disclosure reports covering 2025 in February 2026 as required by law. Since August 15 fell on a Saturday, Commission staff moved the deadline to August 17 to be available for questions with the report or e-filing site.

1 M.R.S. § 1016-G outlines the information required on the PFD including the sources of income received, positions held, and reportable liabilities incurred during the previous calendar year by the candidate and members of their immediate family. The Commission has an e-filing website to accept this information. Staff estimate it takes less than 10 minutes to complete the report.

1 M.R.S. § 1016-G(3)(A) provides a grace period for a late PFD filer allowing them to avoid a penalty. "If a Legislator or candidate does not file the statement within 15 days of the notice, the commission shall mail a notice preliminary penalty of \$250 for a Legislator or \$100 for a candidate..." In this case, that letter was sent by email and regular mail on September 3.

STAFF ANALYSIS

I emailed all legislative candidates required to file the PFD on July 17, 2026. My chain of emails to Ms. Tucker is attached for the Commission's reference, along with my letters sent by U.S. Mail. The email reminded the candidate of the August 17 deadline to file the PFD and included a snippet from the filings page of the Commission's eFiling website indicating which report needed to be filed.

Subsequently, I followed up with those who had not filed the report by email on July 28, August 10, and August 14. The emails outlined the critical need to file a timely report based on the statute, staff contact information, a link to the eFiling website, and statutory penalties for failure to file timely.

None of the emails sent to Ms. Tucker at michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com bounced back, leading me to believe they were received by her account. I received an email response to my August 14 email about 45 minutes after it was sent from Ms. Tucker, which said that she hadn't filed the report yet because she was recovering from a brain injury. This was three days before the August 17 deadline.

As required by statute, on August 18, 2026 (one day after the deadline) I mailed and emailed a notice indicating the report was overdue and warning her of a possible fine. When the report was not filed within the next 15 days, I mailed and emailed another letter notifying her of a preliminary penalty of \$100. I received no additional follow-up from her until she called the office on September 16 seeking a waiver of the assessed penalty.

During the September 16 call, Ms. Tucker indicated she was recovering from a brain injury and shouldn't be around electronics. To date, all her reports due to our office have been timely filed by her treasurer. Although Ms. Tucker has credentials to access the site, she was unable to do so with the computer she was using on September 16. To resolve the matter of the unfiled report, she accepted my offer of assistance over the phone. I proceeded to ask her the questions on the report, typed her answers into the eFiling system and filed it. At the end of the call she asked if she could appeal the penalty or just come over and pay it. I advised that if she wanted to appeal the penalty she would need to do so in writing, which she did moments later by responding to the penalty notice I emailed to her on September 2.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The Legislature made clear by enacting the penalty provision for these reports that financial disclosure is an important consideration to voters before the general election. Ms. Tucker violated 1 M.R.S. § 1016-C by not filing the financial disclosure statement by the August 15 deadline, nor did she file the report by the 15-day grace period in 1 M.R.S. § 1016-G(3)(B).

The Commission considers the following to be mitigating circumstances when reviewing a request for a waiver in whole or in part:

- 1) A valid emergency;
- 2) An error by staff;
- 3) Failure to receive notice of the filing deadline;
- 4) Other circumstances determined by the commission that warrant the mitigation of the penalty, based upon relevant evidence presented that a bona fide effort was made to file the report in accordance with the statutory requirements, including, but not limited to unexplained delays in postal service or interruptions in internet service.

In this case, Ms. Tucker received four emailed notices prior to the filing deadline. Although she advised staff she was recovering from a brain injury, she did not seek assistance from us. Commission staff helped her file the report only after she called the office after receiving the penalty notice. On that call, she indicated she needed to limit her electronic time due to the brain injury. However, between July 17 and August 17 she posted to her publicly accessible personal Facebook account 36 times and replied to comments within them. The postings were about personal matters, her campaigning efforts over the summer, and groups she leads or is a member.

Ms. Tucker's medical condition is sensitive and requires delicate care to recover from, but she could have sought assistance from her treasurer, campaign staff, or others familiar with the eFiling website. Commission staff recommend a 50% reduction of the \$100 penalty to \$50.

From: Michelle Tucker <michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2026 4:13 PM

To: Currier, Martha <Martha.Currier@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Ethics Commission Penalty Notice

Good afternoon,

May I have this penalty waived due to recovering from a concussion and falling behind on the work that needed to be done? Thank you.

Thank you for helping me file this report

Michelle Tucker

From: Currier, Martha

Sent: Thursday, September 3, 2026 9:30 AM

To: michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com

Subject: Ethics Commission Penalty Notice

Importance: High

Ms. Tucker,

You have been assessed a \$100 penalty for failing to file a statutorily required report with the Ethics Commission.

Please refer to the attached letter for more information about the penalty and how to appeal it if you think this was issued in error by Commission staff.

Sincerely,

Martha Currier | Assistant Director

Maine Ethics Commission

135 State House Station | Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-3024 (direct) | (207) 287-4179 (main)

martha.currier@maine.gov | www.maine.gov/ethics

From: Michelle Tucker <michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 10:19 AM

To: Currier, Martha <Martha.Currier@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: FINAL NOTICE - MAINE ETHICS REPORT DUE

Good morning,

I have not responded yet because I'm recovering from a brain injury. I will complete this as soon as possible. Thank you. I hope you have a great weekend.

Michelle Tucker

From: Currier, Martha

Sent: Friday, August 14, 2026 9:43 AM

Bcc: michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com

Subject: FINAL NOTICE - MAINE ETHICS REPORT DUE

Importance: High

Maine Legislative Candidate,

You're receiving another email from me because you haven't filed your report with the Maine Ethics Commission.

This is your final reminder to file your report before the Monday, August 17th deadline. Reports are due by 5:00 p.m.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Martha

Martha Currier | Assistant Director

Maine Ethics Commission

135 State House Station | Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-3024 (direct) | (207) 287-4179 (main)

martha.currier@maine.gov | www.maine.gov/ethics

From: Currier, Martha
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2026 9:54 AM
Cc: Aube, Julie <Julie.Aube@maine.gov>
Bcc: michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com
Subject: ETHICS ACTION NEEDED: Report Due One Week from Today - 8/17/2026
Importance: High

You're receiving this notice because you have not filed a statutorily required report with the Maine Ethics Commission as a 2026 legislative candidate.

The required report lists the sources of your income from 2025.

Failure to file this report may result in a \$100 fine.

The report is due one week from today, please do not delay and file it as soon as possible.

From: Currier, Martha
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2026 11:04 AM
Cc: Aube, Julie Julie.Aube@maine.gov
Bcc: michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com
Subject: ETHICS ACTION NEEDED: Candidate Financial Disclosure Report - DUE 8/17/2026
Importance: High

2026 Maine Legislative Candidate,

Maine law requires legislative candidates not currently serving in the Legislature to file a Personal Financial Disclosure and report all sources of income received during 2025. [1 M.R.S. § 1016-C](#). Current legislators previously filed their reports earlier this year covering the same period.

Reportable information includes your employer, self-employment, any business you own, retirement income, stock dividends, etc. You only need to disclose the sources, not the amounts received. The law also requires the same information for all members in your household including significant others and children. In addition to income sources, you must disclose any positions held in for-profit or non-profit organizations and political committees.

The statement for 2025 is due **Monday, August 17, 2026 by 5:00 p.m.** and is filed electronically. The report is now available on the Filings section of www.mainecampaignfinancedisclosure.com as seen below.

Dashboard Transactions **Filings** Registrations Contacts Roles Join Requests Bulk Imports Alerts Event Log

Filings

Search...

Advanced Search Options

Returned 5 records using 0 filters

Name ↑	Filing Status	%	Period	Due Date %	Date Submitted	%	Version	Actions
42-Day Post-Primary MCEA Report	Not Started		06/27/2026 - 07/16/2026	07/21/2026	-	-	-	Start Delete
2026 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure	Not Started		01/01/2026 - 12/31/2026	08/16/2026	-	-	-	Start Delete
11-Day Pre-Primary MCEA Report	File		04/22/2026 - 05/06/2026	05/26/2026	05/26/2026	0	0	Amend
2026 Seed Money Report - Legislative 17-Day Extension	File		01/01/2026 - 04/21/2026	04/28/2026	04/21/2026	0	0	Amend
2026 January Semiannual Report	File		11/06/2024 - 12/31/2025	01/15/2026	01/14/2026	0	0	Amend

From start to finish, we estimate it will take you 10 minutes to file this report. We have created [filing instructions](#) to assist you along with clear descriptions of the information required for each section, if applicable to you, throughout the report.

If you have any questions, please respond to this email, call Commission Assistant Julie Aube at 287-4179, or email ethics@maine.gov.

Sincerely,
Martha

Martha Currier | Assistant Director
Maine Ethics Commission
135 State House Station | Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 287-3024 (direct) | (207) 287-4179 (main)
martha.currier@maine.gov | www.maine.gov/ethics

From: Currier, Martha <Martha.Currier@maine.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2026 12:42 PM
Cc: Aube, Julie <Julie.Aube@maine.gov>; Brann, Lorrie J <Lorrie.J.Brann@maine.gov>; Gordon, Erin Erin.Gordon@maine.gov
Bcc: michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com
Subject: ACTION NEEDED: Candidate Financial Disclosure Report - DUE 8/17/2026
Importance: High

2026 Maine Legislative Candidate,

Maine law requires legislative candidates not currently serving in the Legislature to file a Personal Financial Disclosure and report all sources of income received during 2025. [1 M.R.S. § 1016-C](#). Current legislators previously filed their reports earlier this year covering the same period.

Reportable information includes your employer, self-employment, any business you own, retirement income, stock dividends, etc. You only need to disclose the sources, not the amounts received. The law also requires the same information for all members in your household including significant others and children. In addition to income sources, you must disclose any positions held in for-profit or non-profit organizations and political committees.

The statement for 2025 is due **Monday, August 17, 2026 by 5:00 p.m.** and is filed electronically. The report is now available on the Filings section of www.mainecampaignfinancedisclosure.com as seen below.

Name	Filing Status	Period	Due Date	Date Submitted	Version	Actions
401 Day Prior Primary NRCA Report	Not Started	05/27/2025 - 07/14/2025	07/14/2025	-	-	Start
2025 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure	Not Started	01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025	08/17/2026	-	-	Start
15 Day Pre-Primary NRCA Report	Not Started	04/12/2026 - 04/26/2026	05/03/2026	-	0	Start
2025 Semi-Monthly Report - Legislative 15 Day Extension	Not Started	07/01/2025 - 04/27/2026	04/28/2026	-	0	Start
2025 January Declaration Report	Not Started	10/01/2024 - 12/31/2025	01/15/2026	-	0	Start

From start to finish, we estimate it will take you 10 minutes to file this report. We have created [filing instructions](#) to assist you along with clear descriptions of the information required for each section, if applicable to you, throughout the report.

If you have any questions, please respond to this email, call Commission Assistant Julie Aube at 287-4179 or email ethics@maine.gov.

Sincerely,

Martha

Martha Currier | Assistant Director

Maine Ethics Commission

135 State House Station | Augusta, ME 04333

(207) 287-3024 (direct) | (207) 287-4179 (main)

martha.currier@maine.gov | www.maine.gov/ethics



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0135

Sent via Email and US Mail

August 18, 2026

Ms. Michelle Tucker
1068 River Avenue
Gardiner, ME 04345

Re: Violation Notice – 2025 Statement of Sources of Income

Dear Ms. Tucker,

Your Personal Financial Disclosure report covering 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2025 is past due pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 1016-C.

Failing to file a statement within 15 days of having been notified by the Commission is a civil violation for which a fine up to \$100 may be assessed. 1 M.R.S. § 1016-G(3)(A).

To avoid a penalty, please file this report no later than Wednesday, September 2, 2026. If the statement is not filed by that date, the Commission will consider whether to find you in violation of the statute and assess a penalty at a future meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Currier".

Martha Currier
Assistant Director



STATE OF MAINE
COMMISSION ON GOVERNMENTAL ETHICS
AND ELECTION PRACTICES
135 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0135

Sent via Email and US Mail

September 3, 2026

Ms. Michelle Tucker
1068 River Avenue
Gardiner, ME 04345

RE: Penalty Notice – 2025 Personal Financial Disclosure

Dear Ms. Tucker,

Your Personal Financial Disclosure report covering 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2025 has not been filed pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 1016-C.

Commission staff have assessed a preliminary penalty of **\$100** for failure to file this report within 15 days of having been notified. 1 M.R.S. § 1016-G(3)(A). We previously made you aware of this matter in our letter dated August 18, 2026, and multiple emails leading up to the deadline.

If you disagree with this preliminary penalty, you may make a written request that the Commission waive or reduce the penalty. A waiver request must be made in writing within 14 calendar days of your receipt of this notice and include an explanation of the reasons the waiver is sought. Upon receipt, we will schedule the hearing of your request for an upcoming Commission meeting.

The Commission may waive or reduce the penalty if it determines the report was late due to mitigating circumstances, which are defined as: (1) a valid emergency; (2) an error made by the Commission staff; or (3) relevant evidence you made a bona fide effort to file the report on time. Also, the Commission may waive or reduce the penalty if it is disproportionate to the level of experience of the person filing the report or the harm suffered by the public from the late disclosure.

If you do not want to seek a waiver, you can pay the penalty to the Commission by sending a check payable to "Treasurer, State of Maine" or paying by card from our website: www.maine.gov/ethics.

Please contact me at 287-3024 or martha.currier@maine.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Currier".

Martha Currier
Assistant Director

**Maine Ethics Commission**

Mail: 135 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0135

Office: 45 Memorial Circle, Augusta, ME 4330

Website: www.maine.gov/ethics

Phone: (207) 287-4179

Fax: (207) 287-6775

Filing Details

View filing information and transactions

ID	d_01m2nwzsdgedssnqf6tmzrffx2
Report Type	Financial Disclosure
Filing Status	Filed
Version	0
Submitted At	September 16, 2026 16:10
Submitted By	Michelle Tucker

Filing Information

Report Name	2025 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure
Reporting Period	January 01, 2025 - December 31, 2025
Report Due Date	August 17, 2026 23:59
Filer	Michelle Tucker
Version	Original

Filer Information

Name	Michelle Tucker
Email	michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com
Phone Number	(207) 212-8139

Income from Employment by Another

Income from Employment by Another #1

Job Title	Member Services REp
Employer Name	Martins Point

Employer Mailing Address	331 Veranda Street, Bldg 6, Portland, ME 04103, US
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Business Activity Category of Employer	Health Care
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Income from Employment by Another #2

Job Title	BHP
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Employer Name	MAS Community Health
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Employer Mailing Address	1190 Lisbon Street, Lewiston, ME 04240, US
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Business Activity Category of Employer	Health Care
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Income from Employment by Another #3

Job Title	Case Management
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Employer Name	Capitol Community Care
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Employer Mailing Address	95 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330, US
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Business Activity Category of Employer	Health Care
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Income from Self Employment

—No Income from Self Employment to report—

Business Entities

—No Business Entities to report—

Income from Practice of Law

—No Income from Practice of Law to report—

Compensation Income of Immediate Family Members

Compensation Income of Immediate Family Members #1

Name of Family Member	Olivia
Job Title	Spa Attendant
Employer Name	Senator Inn and Spa
Employer Mailing Address	284 Western Ave., Augusta, ME 04330, US
Business Activity Category of Employer	Other
Other Business Activity	Health Spa

Compensation Income of Immediate Family Members #2

Name of Family Member	Olivia
Job Title	Customer Service
Employer Name	D'Angelos
Employer Mailing Address	Center Street, Auburn, ME 04210, US
Business Activity Category of Employer	Food Services and Hospitality

Income from Any Other Source

Personal Income from Any Other Source

Personal Income from Any Other Source #1

Source Name	State of Maine
Source Address	45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, ME 04330, US
Type of Income	Unemployment Compensation

Family Member Income from Any Other Source

—No Family Member Income from Another Source to report—

Unsecured Loans

—No Unsecured Loans to report—

Gifts, including Travel and Accommodations

—No Gifts, including Travel and Accommodation to report—

Honoraria

—No Honoraria to report—

Positions in Political Action Committees, Ballot Question Committees, or Party Committees

Personal Positions in Political Action Committees, Ballot Question Committees, or Party Committees

—No Personal Positions in Political Action Committees, Ballot Question Committees, or Party Committees to report—

Family Member Positions in Political Action Committees, Ballot Question Committees, or Party Committees

—No Family Member Positions in Political Action Committees, Ballot Question Committees, or Party Committees to report—

Business Conducted with State Agencies

—No Business Conducted with State Agencies to report—

Representing Others Before State Agencies

—No Representing Others Before State Agencies to report—

Positions in Organizations

Personal Positions in Organizations

Personal Positions in Organizations #1

Organization Name	Maine Federation of Republican Women
Organization Address	1068 River Avenue, Gardiner, ME 04345, US
Position Title	President
Position received compensation?	No

Family Member Positions in Organizations

—No Family Member Positions in Organizations to report—

Certification

Certification Acknowledged	Yes
Certification Statement	I, Michelle Tucker, certify that the information contained in this report is true, accurate, and complete to the best of my knowledge.
Certified By	Michelle Tucker
Certified By Email	michelletuckerformaine@gmail.com
Certification Date	September 16, 2026 16:10

Title 1 M.R.S.
Chapter 25: Governmental Ethics
Subchapter II Legislative Ethics

§1016-C. Reports by legislative candidates

A candidate, as defined in Title 21-A, section 1, subsection 5, for the Legislature who is not required to file a report under section 1016-G shall file a report containing the same information required of Legislators under section 1016-G no later than 5 p.m. on August 15th preceding the general election unless the candidate withdraws from the election in accordance with Title 21-A, section 374-A by that date. A candidate shall file statements electronically as is required of Legislators under section 1016-G, subsection 5. If the candidate fails to file the statement by August 15th, the commission may assess penalties in accordance with section 1016-G, subsection 3.

§1016-G. Disclosure of specific sources of income, interests and reportable liabilities

Each Legislator shall annually file with the commission a statement identifying the sources of income received, positions held and reportable liabilities incurred during the preceding calendar year by the Legislator or members of the Legislator's immediate family. A Legislator who has completed service in the Legislature shall file the statement within 45 days of the Legislator's last day of service to disclose the sources of income in the Legislator's final calendar year of service.

1. Content of statement. The name and, where applicable, the job title of the individual earning or receiving the income must be disclosed, unless otherwise noted. Each source of income must be identified by name, address and principal type of economic or business activity. If disclosure of this type is prohibited by statute, rule or an established code of professional ethics, it is sufficient for the Legislator to specify the principal type of economic or business activity from which the income is derived.

The statement must identify:

- A. If the Legislator is an employee of another person, firm, corporation, association or organization that has provided the Legislator with compensation of \$2,000 or more, the name and address of the employer. The Legislator shall identify the title and position held by the Legislator;
- B. If the Legislator is self-employed, the name and address of the Legislator's business and each source of income derived from self-employment that represents more than 10% of the Legislator's gross income from self-employment or \$2,000, whichever is greater;
- C. The name, address and principal economic or business activity of any corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business in which the Legislator or members of the Legislator's immediate family own or control, directly or indirectly, more than 5% of the outstanding equity, whether individually or in the aggregate, that has received revenue of \$2,000 or more;

- D. Each source of income of \$2,000 or more the Legislator derived from providing services as an attorney, the major areas of law practiced by the Legislator and, if associated with a law firm, the major areas of practice of the firm;
- E. Each source of income of \$2,000 or more received by the Legislator and a description of the nature of the income, such as rental income, dividend income and capital gains;
- F. The specific source of each gift received by the Legislator;
- G. Each source of income of \$2,000 or more received by any member of the immediate family of the Legislator, except that the Legislator is not required to identify the names of dependent children. If the member of the Legislator's immediate family received income of \$2,000 or more in compensation, the Legislator shall identify the source of the compensation, the type of the economic activity and the title of the position held by the immediate family member;
- H. Each source of honoraria of \$2,000 or more that the Legislator accepted;
- I. Each executive branch agency before which the Legislator or any immediate family member has represented or assisted others for compensation;
- J. Each state governmental agency, board or commission to which the Legislator, a member of the Legislator's immediate family or an associated organization has sold, rented or leased goods or services with a value of \$10,000 or more during the preceding calendar year and a description of the goods or services sold, rented or leased;
- K. Each party as defined in Title 21-A, section 1, subsection 28, including a party committee, and each organization that is required under Title 21-A, chapter 13 to register with the commission as a political action committee or ballot question committee for which the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family is a treasurer, principal officer or principal fund-raiser or decision maker;
- L. Any offices, trusteeships, directorships or positions of any nature, whether compensated or uncompensated, held by the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family with any for-profit or nonprofit firm, corporation, association, limited liability company, partnership or business. For the purposes of this paragraph, service as a clerk of a corporation or as a registered agent authorized to receive service of any process, notice or other demand for a business entity is not considered a position with the corporation or business entity; and
- M. All reportable liabilities incurred by the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family during the reporting period.

2. Time for filing. The following provisions govern the time for filing statements.

- A. Each Legislator shall file with the commission by 5:00 p.m. on February 15th of each year on the form provided by the commission a statement of the sources of income, interests and reportable liabilities for the preceding calendar year required by subsection 1. Prior to the end of the first week in January of each year, the commission shall deliver a form to each Senator and member of the House of Representatives.
- B. A Legislator shall file an updated statement concerning the current calendar year if the income, reportable liabilities or positions of the Legislator or an immediate family member, except for dependent children, substantially change from those disclosed in the Legislator's

most recent statement. Substantial changes include, but are not limited to, a new employer that has paid the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family \$2,000 or more during the current year, another source that has provided the Legislator or a member of the Legislator's immediate family, excluding dependent children, with income that totals \$2,000 or more during the current year or the acceptance of a new position with a for-profit or nonprofit firm that is reportable under subsection 1, paragraph L. The Legislator shall file the updated statement within 30 days of the substantial change in income, reportable liabilities or positions.

3. Penalties. Penalties for violations of this section are as follows.

A. Failing to file a statement within 15 days of having been notified by the commission is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$250 for a Legislator or \$100 for a candidate payable to the commission. A statement is not considered filed unless it substantially conforms to the requirements of this subchapter and is properly signed. The commission shall determine whether a statement substantially conforms to the requirements of this subchapter.

B. The intentional filing of a false statement is a Class E crime. If the commission concludes that it appears that a Legislator has willfully filed a false statement, it shall refer its findings of fact to the Attorney General. If the commission determines that a Legislator has willfully failed to file a statement required by this subchapter or has willfully filed a false statement, the Legislator is presumed to have a conflict of interest on every question.

Within 3 business days of a filing deadline, the commission shall mail a notice to a Legislator or candidate who has failed to file a statement required under this subchapter. If a Legislator or candidate does not file the statement within 15 days of the notice, the commission shall mail a notice of a preliminary penalty of \$250 for a Legislator or \$100 for a candidate pursuant to paragraph A. The Legislator or candidate may request a waiver of the penalty within 15 days of the penalty notice. If no request is made, the preliminary penalty of \$250 for a Legislator or \$100 for a candidate is final. If the Legislator or candidate requests a waiver, the commission shall consider the request at its next meeting for a determination of the final penalty, if any. The commission staff shall confirm a final penalty in a written determination to the Legislator or candidate who did not file the statement on time. The commission's determination may be appealed to the Superior Court in accordance with Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 7 and the Maine Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 80C. Penalties assessed pursuant to this subsection may be enforced in accordance with Title 21-A, section 1004-B.

4. Rules, procedures and forms. The commission may adopt or amend rules to specify the reportable categories or types and the procedures and forms for reporting and to administer this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

5. Public record. Statements filed under this section are public records. The commission shall provide a means for Legislators to file statements in an electronic format that must immediately place the statements on a publicly accessible website. Legislators shall file statements required by this section using the electronic format prescribed by the commission. If a Legislator can attest to an inability to access or use the electronic filing format, the commission may provide assistance to the Legislator to ensure proper and timely placement of the required statements on the publicly accessible website.