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**Subject:** Ethics Reform - House Judiciary update (H.3945)

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Today, the House Judiciary unanimously passed H.3945.

Four amendments were adopted (at this time, we have not seen the actual text of these amendments):

1. False Claims Act (J. Smith/Quinn) – This provision includes whistleblower protections.
  - a. Note: Whistleblower protections is the #18 recommendation from the Ethics Reform Commission.
2. PIU (Quinn) – This provision creates the Public Integrity Unit.
  - a. Note: The PUS is the #13 recommendation from the Ethics Reform Commission.
3. House/Senate Rules to Elect Commissioners (Quinn) – This provision allows the House and Senate to elect their members to the Commission by rule.
4. Bipartisan and Increased Membership of Commission (Funderburk) – This provision increases the membership of the Commission from 3-3-3 to 4-4-4 for the Governor, Senate, and House to expressly require bipartisan representation of 2/2-2/2-2/2 Republicans and Democrats.

Other amendments considered but tabled regarded:

- Permitting legislative leadership to appoint Commissioners (rather than the body electing Commissioners) – put forth by Rutherford.
- Prohibiting former legislators from lobbying for five years after leaving office – put forth by James Smith.
- Prohibiting lobbyists from contributing to elected officials during session – put forth by James Smith.
- Requiring the Commission to randomly audit 10% of campaigns after each election – put forth by James Smith.

Thank you.

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