

Alaska State Legislature

Select Committee on Legislative Ethics

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HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION DISMISSAL OF COMPLAINT H 22-03

The House Subcommittee hereby dismisses the Complaint against Rep. Sarah Vance H 22-03.

The House Subcommittee reviewed the allegations contained in the complaint and determined that:

1. The House Subcommittee received a properly filed complaint against Representative Sarah Vance, dated August 12, 2022, and determined that the House Subcommittee has jurisdiction over the person named in the complaint and that the complaint was filed within 5 years of the alleged violation.
2. The complaint alleged the following:

In a campaign promise by Representative Vance, she allegedly used the phrase “protect your God given constitutional rights.” This in turn was alleged to violate the “US constitutional freedom from religion in the long-held separation of church and state in the 14th amendment.”

Significantly the complaint does not allege the use of any state resources by the Representative as part of or in the allegations.

3. The House Subcommittee finds that the specific allegations outlined in the complaint, if proven true, do not give rise to a violation of the Legislative Ethics Act AS 24.60. The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics has no jurisdiction regarding potential issues of constitutional violations. The Select Committee on Legislative Ethics has no jurisdiction regarding campaign activities except for the prohibition on the use of state resources in partisan or campaign activities under AS 24.60.030(a)(2) and (5). There was no allegation involving the use of state resources in the complaint.
4. The House Subcommittee thereby dismisses the complaint in its entirety pursuant to AS 24.60.170(c).

5. Representative Sarah Vance waived confidentiality pursuant to AS 24.60.170(l). Under the Committee's Rules of Procedure, Section 14(d)(3), and under AS 24.60.170(c), "A proceeding conducted under this subsection, documents that are part of a proceeding, and a dismissal under this subsection are confidential as provided in (l) of this section unless the subject of the complaint waives confidentiality as provided in that subsection." Therefore, this decision will be made public.

Adopted this 13 day of October, 2022
by a majority of the House Subcommittee.

Signature redacted for privacy

H. Conner Thomas, Chair

Members Participating

H. Conner Thomas, Chair
Joyce M. Anderson
Dennis "Skip" Cook
Lee Holmes

Representative Chris Tuck
Representative DeLena Johnson