

Part 8. Violations and Enforcement of Lobbying Laws.

**§ 163A-395. Powers and duties of the State Board.**

(a) The State Board shall perform systematic reviews of reports required to be filed under Parts 4 and 7 of this Article on a regular basis to assure complete and timely disclosure of reportable expenditures. The State Board shall refer to the State Board any complaints of violations of this Article other than those related solely to Parts 2, 4, or 7 of this Article.

(b) The State Board may petition the Superior Court of Wake County for the approval to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum as necessary to conduct investigations of violations of Parts 2, 4, or 7 of this Article. The court shall authorize subpoenas under this subsection when the court determines they are necessary for the enforcement of Parts 2, 4, and 7 of this Article. Subpoenas issued under this subsection shall be enforceable by the court through contempt powers. Venue shall be with the Superior Court of Wake County for any nonresident person, or that person's agent, who makes a reportable expenditure under this Article, and personal jurisdiction may be asserted under G.S. 1-75.4.

(c) Complaints of violations of Parts 2, 4, and 7 of this Article, all other records accumulated in conjunction with the investigation of these complaints, and any records accumulated in the performance of a systematic review shall be considered confidential records and may be released only by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Any information obtained by the State Board from any law enforcement agency, administrative agency, or regulatory organization on a confidential or otherwise restricted basis in the course of an investigation or systematic review shall be confidential and exempt from G.S. 132-6 to the same extent that it is confidential in the possession of the providing agency or organization.

(d) The State Board shall publish annual statistics on complaints received and systematic reviews conducted under this section, including the number of systematic reviews, the number of complaints, the number of apparent violations of this Article referred to a district attorney, the number of complaints dismissed, and the number and age of complaints pending. Subject to the provisions of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, the levy of all civil fines, including the amount of the fine and the identity of the person or governmental unit against whom it was levied, shall be a public record as defined in G.S. 132-1(a). (2005-456, s. 1; 2006-201, s. 18; 2006-259, s. 43.5(a); 2008-213, s. 34; 2010-169, s. 19(a); 2017-6, s. 3.)