

§ 163A-396. Additional powers and duties of the State Board.

(a) The State Board may investigate complaints of violations of this Article.

(b) Complaints of violations of this Article and all other records accumulated in conjunction with the investigation of these complaints 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 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.

(c) The State Board shall publish annual statistics on complaints, including the number of complaints, the number of apparent violations of this Article referred to a district attorney, the number of dismissals, and the number and age of complaints pending. (2006-201, s. 18; 2006-259, s. 43.5(a); 2008-213, s. 35; 2010-169, s. 19(b); 2016-125, 4th Ex. Sess., s. 4; 2017-6, ss. 2, 3, 6.)