



OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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Laurie Eby
Acting Executive Director
Legislative Ethics Commission
420 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706

July 8, 2026

Regarding Case 26-005

Dear Ms. Eby,

Enclosed you will find the following items which I would like you to distribute to all members of the Legislative Ethics Commission as soon as possible. The items include:

1. The Confidential Founded Summary Report completed June 30, 2026 and delivered to Speaker of the House, Emanuel "Chris" Welch on July 1, 2026.
2. Speaker Welch's Press Release issued on July 1, 2026.
3. Speaker Welch's response as the ultimate jurisdictional authority to my summary report on July 2, 2026.
4. Representative Harry Benton's resignation as state representative for the 97th House District effective at 4:59 PM on Friday, July 3, 2026.

I issued the summary report in this case pursuant to 5 ILCS 430/25-50(c-5). The statute requires me within 30 days to advise the Legislative Ethics Commission as to whether a complaint should be filed in this case. I do not believe a complaint should be filed with the Attorney General. My summary report concluded that there were 2 founded complaints, each of which are misdemeanors under the law. Also, I do not believe the Attorney General would prosecute or investigate the founded misdemeanors in my report. Moreover, I do not believe further investigation is needed by the Legislative Inspector General's office or by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General.

Sincerely,

Michael P. McCuskey

Michael P. McCuskey
Legislative Inspector General