

HB 2475 -- REGULATION OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

SPONSOR: Bahr

This bill provides a process for the removal of department directors or deputy directors or members of boards and commissions appointed by the General Assembly. A petition signed by 16 members of the House is necessary for the removal process to proceed to a closed hearing before the Standing Ethics Committee of the House. The petition must allege that the removal is for the betterment of the public service because the official has engaged in instances of misconduct, perjury before the General Assembly, violations of state statute, conviction or plea to any crime, habitual intoxication, willful neglect of duty, corruption in office, incompetency, or any offense involving moral turpitude or oppression in office. If that committee recommends removal, then a majority vote by both houses of the General Assembly is required to remove the official from office. Once removed, an official is not subject to reappointment until the next General Assembly has convened.