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## JOINT COMMITTEE ON RULES SUBCOMMITTEE ON SEXUAL HARASSMENT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

### What the Subcommittee is:

The Joint Subcommittee is charged with drafting a new set of rules and processes for the Senate and Assembly. It aims to establish firm guidelines to reduce incidents of sexual harassment, protect those who report harassment or abuse, and hold perpetrators accountable.

The recommendations of the Subcommittee will be presented to the full Joint Rules Committee for approval and adoption as new procedures and policies for the Legislature.

### What the Subcommittee is not:

- It will not merely hold informational hearings.
- It is not a standing committee meeting to hear legislation.

### The Subcommittee process:

- The Subcommittee is committed to a deliberative process that is open and fully visible. It will hear from experts, public agencies and advocates in public discussions so that the public not only knows what is decided, but can follow along every step of the way.
- The Subcommittee actively seeks input and welcomes suggestions.
- The Subcommittee will not pre-determine outcomes before receiving full information and input, and requests the Legislature to respect the process and not undermine it.
- By committing to a thorough bipartisan process without preconceptions, the bicameral subcommittee can develop policies and procedures that are comprehensive and cohesive.

### Goals for the final process of dealing with reports or complaints:

- **Clarity** – Everyone in the Legislature, everyone who deals with the Legislature and every interested member of the public should understand the process for dealing with reports and complaints. At the end, we want a process that everyone understands.
- **Openness** – There must be a clear understanding of what information is made public under what circumstances. It must be a system that protects victims and provides due process, while also respecting the public's right to know about wrongdoing by elected officials.
- **Accountability** – Full accountability demands that decisions and consequences are reached and implemented objectively and uniformly, utilizing standardized criteria.
- **Absence of retaliation** – A process should protect victims and reporting parties from retaliation, and do everything possible to reduce any potential fear of retaliation.