## COMMITTEE ON EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## REPORT NO. 3: ARTICLE XIX (ETHICAL STANDARDS)

The Committee met on Wednesday, July 5, 1995, and Tuesday, July 18, 1995, to discuss proposed amendments to Article XIX (Code of Ethics). The Committee considered proposals to delete this article from the Constitution because the legislature has acted to pass appropriate legislation on the subject. The Committee concluded, however, that the subject deserved some attention in the Constitution as a reminder of the obligations of all public servants in the Commonwealth. The Committee recommends that the Convention adopt the proposed Article XIX (Ethical Standards).

## ARTICLE XIX: ETHICAL STANDARDS

A public office is a public trust. The people of the Commonwealth expect that public officials and employees must adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct, respect the public trust and the rights of all persons, avoid the appearance of impropriety, and not use their position for private gain or advantage. Each branch of government shall ensure that appropriate laws and regulations are enacted to enforce these standards.

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