

# AMENDMENT NO. 17

## AMENDMENT OF FORMER ARTICLE 19: CODE OF ETHICS

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES  
PROPOSED BY THE  
CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

AMENDED CONSTITUTION AS PROPOSED  
BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Title: The title of Article 17 has been changed from “Code of Ethics” which covered a direction to the legislature to enact legislation on ethics to “Ethical Standards” to reflect the statement of constitutional standards.

Article 17 on ethical standards requires all public employees to avoid appearances of impropriety and not to use their positions for private gain. (This is former Article 19, which has been renumbered.)

Former Article 17 on oath of office has been moved to Article 19, Section 1.

## ARTICLE XVII: 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.**