



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

ADVISORY OPINION NO. 89-2

Application of the Code of Ethics to Members of the  
State's Central Housing Committee

In 1978 the Ethics Commission was asked whether members of the State's Central Housing Committee and its constituent Regional Housing Councils were subject to the Code of Ethics for Public Officials, Chapter 10, Part I, General Statutes.

The members received no public funds, other than reimbursement of necessary expenses. They did not have authority to expend any public funds or to exercise the power of the State. Therefore, they were determined to be members of advisory boards rather than public officials, as those terms are defined in the Code. Subsections 1-79(h) and (k), General Statutes. As a result, the Commission held that they were not subject to the substantive provisions of the Code of Ethics. Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion No. 78-23, 40 Conn. L.J. No. 16, p. 5 (October 17, 1978).

At the time Advisory Opinion 78-23 was issued the Central Housing Committee and the Regional Housing Councils had been established by Executive Order. Pursuant to P.A. 87-550 these entities now are authorized by statute. The Chairperson of the Central Housing Committee, Ms. Lisl Standen, has asked the Ethics Commission whether passage of 87-550 alters the Commission's prior decision. It does not.

An examination of the legislation reveals that the individuals in question still fit within the Code's definition of advisory board members. Therefore, they remain exempt from the State's Code of Ethics.

By order of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William A. Elrick".

William A. Elrick  
Chairperson

Dated 1-9-89

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